



# Jim's JOTTINGS

BY JIM DILLS

● ONE OF THE more recent theories on the formation of the N-shaped tree along Highway 25 just north of the Campbellville Sideroad, comes from John Irving, who reports his father's recollection on the subject. Mr. Irving's theory is that in the formation of the stump fence that used to exist in that area, one of the stumps bent the sapling and forced it into its crooked shape. The stumps were tipped from a "boat" drawn by oxen in that area about 80 or 90 years ago. This seems more likely than an earlier suggestion that it was bent that way by Indians as a trail marker. The tree is not old enough to coincide with the existence of Indians in this area more than 150 years ago. The tree has been the subject of Ripley's Believe It or Not and there are probably other theories on its formation.

● I DOUBT if there's an air-line terminal that doesn't have automatic dispensers for life insurance or some method by which those planning to board planes can obtain financial protection. Perhaps this emphasizes

unduly the possibility of accident, but I haven't yet heard of garages dispensing trip insurance applicable to automobiles. Yet every week, headlines report auto tragedy. Maybe air flight insurance is more profitable for its backers than automobile insurance could ever be.

● PERHAPS you've heard the one about the small boy who went into the store and plunked down five cents, asking for a bottle of pop. "It costs 10 cents," said the storekeeper. The youngster tried again and asked for a candy bar. He got the same reply and this happened several times. At last, the boy turned sadly away, leaving his five cents on the counter. "You've left your nickel, boy," called the storekeeper. "You keep it," replied the lad. "It ain't worth nothing."

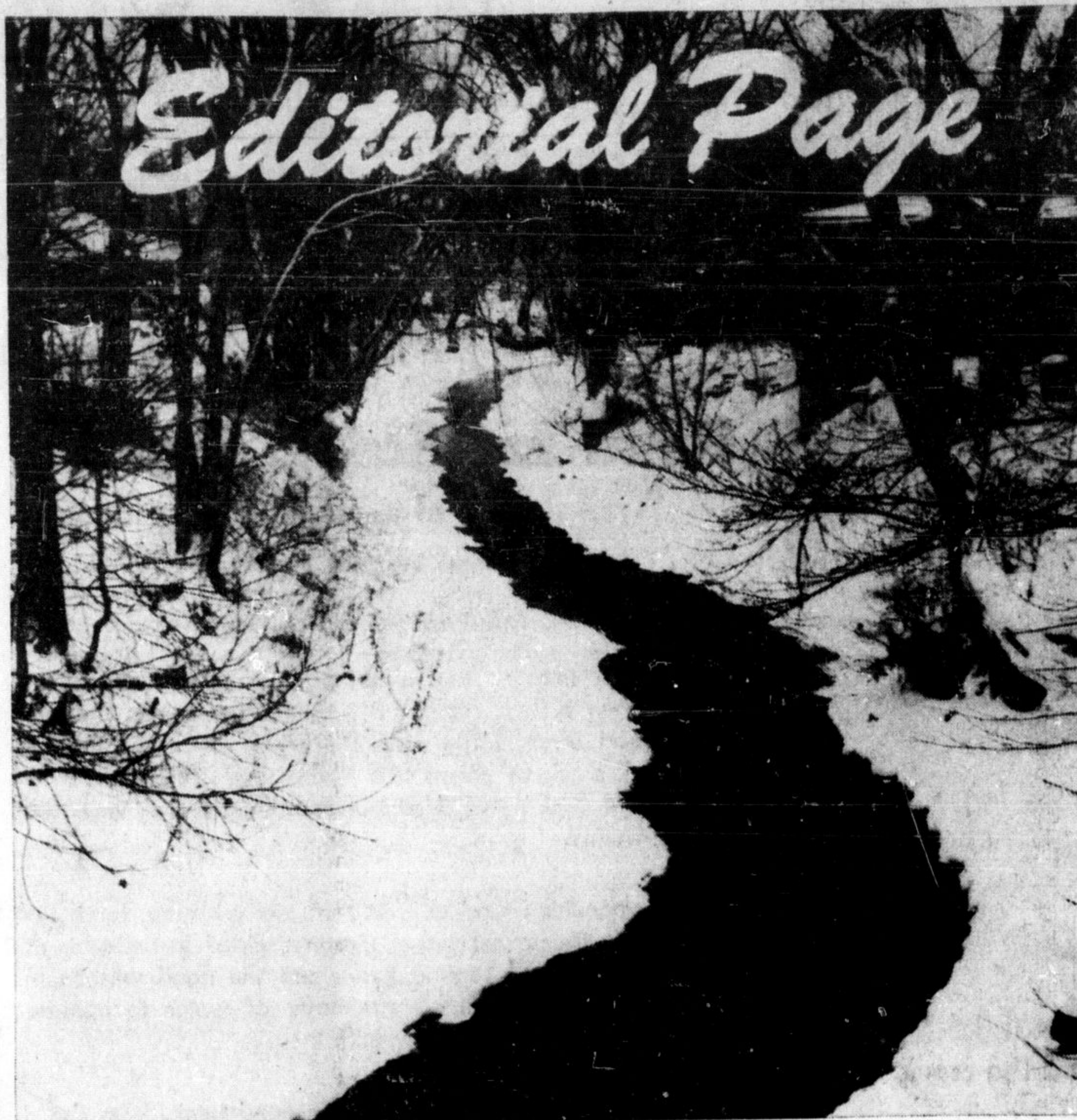
● THERE IS a lot of talk these days about bilingualism. I continue to wonder if there are plans afoot to teach English to all the people of Quebec while the balance of Canada learns

French. Plans to extend French teaching seem to be advancing in other provinces.

● THE PROBLEM of titles seems to be attracting a lot of attention lately. Lord Home demoted himself to Sir Alex Douglas-Home so he could be prime minister of England and Roy Thomson has apparently lost his Canadian citizenship in climbing up for his new title, whatever it may be. Makes one wonder if the titles really do contribute anything when they can be changed like a suit of clothes.

● AN INTERESTING set of statistics just turned up noting that in 1951, according to a report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the presence of television sets in the home was regarded as nil. By 1962 — just 10 years later — 87 per cent of the homes had television. Refrigerators went from 48 per cent to 93 per cent. That rising standard of living we hear so much about isn't the figment of anyone's imagination — it would appear.

## A Frosty Ribbon



—Staff Photo

THE SIXTEEN MILE CREEK snakes its way through the ice and snow as it winds its way through the centre of Milton, while naked tree branches frame the picture. This was taken from the Main St. bridge, looking south.

## From the Beginning...

It's the season of inaugural meetings of most branches of municipal government. Throughout Halton this year every municipal council is holding its first meeting after elections that dictated the composition of the groups.

But government is not limited to the council alone and this seems to be one of the areas in which public thinking has not been able to catch up with the growing numbers of "municipal arms" that councils are spawning. No longer does a council "rule the roost". Besides the Boards of Education and School Boards we have planning boards, recreation commissions, park authorities, conservation authorities, committees of adjustment, parking authorities, arena boards, library boards, museum boards, emergency measures organizations, and probably more that don't come to mind immediately.

Thus it is that local government spending is not limited entirely to a municipal council since all the groups mentioned require funds to operate their programs. Some operate on minimum budgets while others require healthy amounts to meet the needs in the area of their responsibility.

At the outset of a new year the inaugural meetings of most of these groups are the signal to begin thinking in terms of the annual municipal budget which must total the needs of all these groups. Each group lays plans for growth, each group prepares its financial needs in a budget for presentation to and discussion by the central council. From the

sum total of all these needs comes the amount on which the annual tax levy must be based. And while Councils usually bear the brunt of shaping needs into what is financially possible, some consideration of the overall picture should be held by each group in its deliberations.

Thomas Jefferson had something to say about economy and debt which one reader has suggested to us might indeed form a desk motto for every official charged with the expenditure of public funds.

His words went like this: "I place economy among the first and most important virtues, and public debt as the greatest of dangers to be feared. . . . To preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. . . . We must make our choice between economy and liberty or profusion and servitude."

"If we run into such debts, we must be taxed in our meat and drink, in our necessities and our comforts, in our labors and in our amusements. . . . If we can prevent the Government from wasting the labors of the people, under the pretense of caring for them, they will be happy."

At this season of inaugural meetings of branches of local government the words of Jefferson might be worth considering, not by the government officials alone but also by the taxpayers who dictate through their influence what they demand of local government.

together for the public to see, they might get a "terrible shock."

It can't happen, of course, but if the public were to pay for all government spending through one national consumer tax they certainly would get a terrible shock. Last year, not including intergovernmental transfers, total government spending came to \$13 billion. Since retail spending in the year came to \$17.5 billion, this imaginary retail sales tax would have had to have been at the rate of 75 per cent, or 75 cents on every dollar spent at the cash register level. A \$20 grocery bill would have required another \$15 for the tax.

And if the idea is a shocker, consider the point that in one way or another and without even knowing it the nation really is paying a tax bill of just that proportion.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### GLANCING BACK TO 10 YEARS AGO

Taken from the files of the Canadian Champion, January 7, 1954.

The Rolmac Construction Company of Hamilton was awarded the general contract for the new Lowville grade school, to be erected by the School Board of Area No. 1, Nelson Township, at a price of \$119,975. The school board passed a motion asking the township council to issue debentures for \$164,000, to cover the contract awards, furniture and equipment, of the new school, together with grading, fencing, etc.

Milton 1954 council was sworn in at the inaugural meeting on Tuesday evening of this week as Clerk Adam Sproat administered the oath. Mayor Heslop presided as Reeve C. Martin, Deputy Reeve S. Childs, Councillors C. Johnson, C. W. Wilson, R. C. Cunningham, Robert Reid, E. R. Pearson and L. Charlton took their places at the council table.

The new Nelson Township Fire

Department had just finished loading the new fire truck with hose and other equipment about 12:15 a.m., January 1, 1954, when a call was received to a chimney fire at the home of Mrs. John L. Woods, Hickory Lodge, on the Old Orchard Road near Tansley. A full quota of men responded under the direction of Fire Chief W. Rex Mills and were soon at the scene, where everything was brought under control with practically no damage.

The opening days of car license sales in Milton were brisk as the sale of new automobile and truck markers was initiated at Toletzka's. This year plates on sale in Milton started at R6001 and by Wednesday more than 116 auto plates had been purchased.

Milton had a new year's baby this year born on January 1. Steven Douglas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Turner, arrived on the first day of the new year at the Milton private hospital.

### GLANCING BACK TO 20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the files of the Canadian Champion, January 6, 1944.

The inaugural meeting of the Milton Council was held on Tuesday evening with all members present. Clerk Jas. W. Blain swore in all members of the council and Mayor Dawson welcomed the old and new members and expressed the hope that all could work together this year for the good of the community as had been done in the past. He pointed out that only necessary work should be done so that all possible could be done at the war's end. He felt that a committee should be formed for post-war planning, consisting of business and professional men and other interested citizens.

At the last general meeting of Branch 136 Canadian Legion, held on Monday, December 27th, 1943, the following officers and chairmen of standing committees were elected as follows: immediate past president, R. McAndless; president G. White; 1st vice president, W. Morrison; 2nd vice president K. Cox; secretary service officer, H. Allen; treasurer, R. Pitelny; sgt.-at-arms, A. Higgins; house property chairman, R. Sim; sick chairman, H. Smith; cemetery chairman, T. Bradley; invest-

igation chairman, K. McDougal; bingo chairman, C. Bowring; executive, W. Anderson, C. Kennedy and L. Servos.

Post war taxes can be reduced by more than 60 per cent, so long as Canada's national income is maintained, Hughes Cleaver, Liberal M.P. for Halton, chairman of the special committee of the House of Commons on war expenditures, estimated Thursday, Canadian debt on March 31st, 1944 will be something more than nine billion dollars and if the war lasts until December 31st, 1944 the net national debt of Canada will stand at approximately 12 billion dollars, the Halton representative said.

Milton's first baby off 1944 was a baby girl born on New Year's morning at Milton Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McCullough of Moffat.

During the year the Milton Fire Brigade answered nine alarms in the town. This was reported at the annual meeting of the Brigade held on Friday evening in the fire hall. Officers for the year were elected as follows: assistant chief G. Bundy, secretary A. E. Waldie, treasurer G. Morley, captain number 1, H. Bundy; captain number 2, A. Clements; captain number 3, C. Stover.

### GLANCING BACK TO 50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the files of the Canadian Champion, January 8, 1914.

On Tuesday one of C. H. Earl's household saw three chickens, just out, trotting on the snow in the next neighbor's yard. It was found that they had been hatched out by a pit game hen belonging to Mr. Earl. She had laid only three eggs beside a lumber pile. Her only shelter and none of them had spoiled. Mr. Earl showed the hen at the Toronto Poultry show, from which he brought her home on November 24th. He has moved her and her chicks to more comfortable quarters in the rear of his father's shop.

The rink was open for skating on Tuesday evening for the first time this season. On account of the mild weather the ice was not first class, but lower temperatures will soon remedy that. A good season of skating, curling and hockey is expected. About 28 new players will curl.

It is reported today that Burlington is excited over the discovery that the newly elected reeve, council and water commissioners signed the wrong declaration of qualification before the election, that the old was used instead of the new, the one stating that the person making it is a British subject and the other that his taxes had been paid. The clerk and Reeve are investigating. It is thought that a new election may be necessary and it is supposed that the same mistake may have been made in other municipalities. Sheriff Webster has a vacant lot on West Mary Street. He told an Englishman to shovel off the snow there, meaning to clean the sidewalk. Yesterday the man cleaned it off, the whole lot and piled upon the side of the street, to the great amusement of the neighbors.

A large number attended a meeting of the Curling Club at the rink last evening. The names of 28 new members were given in. The schedule of rink matches will be prepared by the 15th.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

**BURLINGTON** — The Burlington Engineering and Works Department has used about 10 per cent of the 5,000 tons of sand and 1,000 tons of salt purchased earlier in the year to control slippery road surfaces, said Town Engineer Robert Bailie. Most of the material has been utilized during the past two weeks.

**BRAMPTON** — Brampton Jaycees again held a Twelfth Night celebration this year, with Christmas trees being burned on Tuesday evening at the Royal Canadian Air Force Association Wing grounds on McLaughlin Road. Trees were collected for the giant bonfire on Friday, Saturday and Monday.

**GEORGETOWN** — July 1, 1964, has been set as the kick-off day for Georgetown's 100th birthday party, a town council committee announced recently. Entertainments are being planned for the four day program and the committee has made attempts to secure such name acts as the RCMP Musical Ride, the OPP Motorcycle Ride and an aerobic team among others.

**ACTON** — The cry of "Timber" echoed through the Robert Little public school grounds as lumberjacks felled two stately elm trees last week. One was believed to be approximately 250 years old, while the other ranges around the 100 year mark. Both were cut down because of Dutch Elm disease.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**  
The world is equally shocked at hearing Christianity criticized and seeing it practiced.  
—D. Elton Trueblood

## Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

We went to a cocktail party during the holidays. In fact, we went to four of them. In fact, we even had one ourselves.

And, after judicious consideration, I state categorically that there is no form of entertainment, self-abuse, penance or punishment that comes reasonably close to the cocktail party for sheer ridiculousity.

Once upon a time, I suppose, a cocktail party was a genteel affair, a gathering at which friends sipped a drink, discussed the arts, and nibbled a canape or two, before going off to dinner elsewhere. Urbane, sophisticated, the manners were as polished as the glasses.

Nowadays, the cocktail party is a social monster with 44 tales and one great big, fat head.

First, there's the guest list to prepare. This is a lot of fun and takes only three weeks. It is interspersed with remarks like, "What the heck did they ever do for us?" and "Well, you may think she's terrific, but I can't stand her."

The list includes the names

of all the people you "owe" hospitality to. This means the couple who took you for a ride in their crummy boat last summer and soaked you to the skin in the process. And the neighbors who called you over for charred spareribs one evening when their expected guests had enough sense not to turn up.

Also all the people who invited you to one of their parties during the last three years, and the couple who sent you a Christmas card and whom you had cut off your list, and the people down the block who looked after your dog the day you were at the wedding, and the couple you don't know but who look "interesting".

You now have eleventy-seven names on your list. So you start scratching. This, too, is fun. Joe and Mabel are given the axe because Joe always gets into a heated argument. Miriam and Elmer go down the drain because Miriam always starts a fight just because Elmer looks at another girl.

And then there's the food business. Food at a cocktail party used to be a matter of a few

hors d'oeuvres, but now it's a horse of a different color. Nobody who has gone to the trouble of getting a baby sitter and putting on his best suit at five o'clock in the afternoon has any intention of going home until he has eaten about five dollars' worth of the only can of smoked oysters you've ever bought in your life.

But these are all on the surface, by-product kicks. The real delight of the cocktail party, as we all know, is the conversation. Where else do the girls get a chance to bare their souls? Where else can you hear a chap tell the same story he told at the last three cocktail parties, and tell it even better?

When I started writing this column I was feeling a bit jaded, a trifle critical of the cocktail party. But during the process, I have come to realize that there's nothing quite like it in modern society. Nothing.

Unless it might be throwing lions to the Christians.



## DOWN(S) IN THIS CORNER

WITH ROY DOWNS

I'M SENDING OFF the following letter to the people who compiled the most recent edition of Encyclopedia Canadiana. See if you agree with my thoughts:

Dear Sirs:

With reference to your article about Milton, Ont., on Page 88 of your edition, Volume 7, the "Med to Odo" section:

You are perfectly correct when you state the town is in Halton County, on the 16 Mile Creek, 33 mile from Toronto via CPR and 21 miles north of Hamilton via CNR, not far from the base of the Niagara Escarpment, serving an extensive general farming district, had a public library and a weekly newspaper, and its name was derived from "Milltown" by which the place was known prior to 1837.

However, and herein lies the reason for this letter, you are incorrect when you state "the original settlement was named in honor of Martin Mills, one of the early settlers." For your historian's information, there never was a man with the name Martin Mills. A man named Joshua Martin founded the town when he started a mill on the banks of the 16, and you should say the "Milltown" name came from Mr. Martin's mill.

Also, you state the town "has several small industrial establishments." I cannot understand by what yardstick you term our industries "small" but we Miltonians do not feel our P. L. Robertson Manufacturing, Ontario Steel and Canadian Meter firms are small.

You have also omitted the fact Milton is the county town of Halton County and as such is the site of county government. Your book was published before the establishment here of the Ontario School for the Deaf, but your next printing will undoubtedly contain this information. You

left out the district's Kelso Conservation Area and Halton Museum, our arena, theatre and community swimming pool, our four elementary schools and two high schools, our two major highways, and many other fine points of the town.

In truth, the Encyclopedia made Milton look like a hick village, accessible only by rail, where the residents do nothing but stare at the creek and read about the outside world in the library and the weekly newspaper. It looked as if the only entertainment in town was looking at the mountain or wandering down to the mill to see the farmers grinding their grain.

We think a little more highly of ourselves than that, thank you.

Roy Downs

A BUSY BEE is never as busy as it seems; it's just that it can't buzz any slower.

THE NEWS BUSINESS is a big one in Halton County today. Didn't really realize it myself, until this week when I began doing some research while preparing a little talk about newspapers for a local service club.

Taking rough figures, I estimated there are 48 persons in Halton County gainfully employed full time in gathering and writing news or taking news pictures. Amazing, isn't it? The total includes news staffers on the six Halton County weeklies and the Guelph, Hamilton, Oakville and Toronto dailies that service areas of the county.

In any week in the year, they would print a total of about 200 pages of Halton news.

While preparing my talk, I began counting the number of people responsible for your

weekly issue of The Champion. Truthfully, the figure got so high, and kept climbing that I couldn't possibly hazard an accurate guess. When you count the full-time staffers, the part-time writers and columnists, the group secretaries who submit reports, the bowling and other sports group representatives who telephone or write in with news stories, the rural correspondents who cover a dozen area communities, and the host of others who occasionally submit articles or letters to the editor . . . well really, the list reaches close to 100 and is still incomplete.

Yes, it's really big business, this newspaper game!

NEXT TIME you want to try running down your town, ponder this piece of wisdom from a recent issue of "Municipal World."

My town is the place where my home is found, where my business is situated and where my vote is cast.

It is where my children are educated, where my neighbors dwell, where my life is chiefly lived. It is the home spot for me.

My town has the right to my civic loyalty. It supports me and I should support it.

My town wants my citizenship, not my partisanship; my friendliness, not my dissension; my constructive suggestion, but not my destructive criticism; my intelligence, not my indifference.

My town supplies me with protection, trade, friends, education, churches, schools and the right to free moral citizenship. It has some things that are better than others; the best things I should seek to make better; the worst things I should help to improve.

Take it all-in-all, it is my town and it is entitled to the best there is in me.

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