



# Jim's JOTTINGS

BY JIM DILLS

THE OLD chestnut about Milton and Oakville amalgamating instead of annexing comes up every time the county town talks about expanding its borders. Just how Oakville, the most frequent proponent of the idea, would benefit from such a solution to the continuing border problem, I don't know. Milton could benefit financially with its debt spread over some of the attractive industrial assessment like refineries, but it would certainly lose its identity. Since Milton is apparently content to meet its costs and retain its identity I can't understand why Oakville continues to harp on the proposal.

IT IS CERTAINLY hoped though that some clear conclusion can be reached between the two municipalities ere many more moons have passed. No subject has received so much expert opinion at so great a cost as annexation in this area. Surely some conclusion can be reached under the welter of data and debate that has been accumulated.

THOSE CEREAL manufacturers who offer premiums with their products and tempt youngsters to accumulate box tops and pennies, should streamline their distribution of the premiums. It takes from three to four weeks from the time a premium is ordered until it finally is received. Whether the daily disappointment in not receiving the premium is intended to build up the child's suspense or not, I don't know,

but it certainly wears down a parent who must daily announce that there is no mail today. If an order can't be filled in two weeks there must be something wrong somewhere.

ONE METHOD for overcoming the difficulties between whites and negroes in the U.S. has been the development of inter-home visits. A white family entertains a negro family to coffee and vice-versa. Conversations in the exchange are designed to develop a better mutual understanding of problems. It could be an effective program and I imagine it is. I know the visit to Milton of foreign students studying in Toronto, under the sponsorship of the local Rotary Club, does much to further the field of understanding. Carried far enough, the results can be felt around a more peaceful and more understanding world.

NOTICE WHERE a Hamilton-made uniform store hour by-law is spreading out to areas around that city. Apparently the by-law would limit certain types of stores to a Thursday and Friday open night and close the outlets on normal statutory holidays and other nights of the week. Acceptance of some such by-law across the province might bring a measure of uniformity out of the present confusion. Such action is of course, open to dispute on the basis it restricts those who would be prepared to remain open longer. So far most local

stores have been content with the Friday night open, but there are rumbles a move for a general Thursday night opening as well, may be under way. Discussion of store hours inevitably produces more heat than light and a good many hurt feelings. I hope that isn't the case if discussions get off the ground here.

THERE'S something frightening in the figures of the Ontario Alcoholic Research Foundation that estimated ten years ago that 18 out of every 1,000 Ontario adults were alcoholics, and the figure last year went to 25 out of every 1,000. Seems possible to work up a great storm about cigarettes and cancer, but the relationship between alcohol and alcoholism goes almost unnoticed.

JOHN FISHER is quoted recently as fearing that too many Canadians think the Government will take charge of the whole Centennial project. He was of course discussing Canada's 100th birthday in 1967. What he has to say is quite right of course, but it's not limited to centennial celebrations. In this day and age too much of our local action and initiative is motivated only by the funds available from senior levels of government. It's about time some revisions in taxation were made so that a local municipality could become a little more the master of its own fate. Then local politicians might become more of the initiators and innovators than grant-getters.

## At Stewarttown



—Staff Photo

QUIET WATERS in the mill pond at Stewarttown reflect the arrival of Spring. The tiny community on the Seventh Line south of Georgetown is one of Halton's smaller rural communities, and has kept its rural beauty as indicated in a scene like this one.

## Dubious Benefits...

Discussions on assessment in Halton County lately have centred around whether it would be wise for the county to establish a County Assessment Commissioner, who would operate over the entire county.

The program, as outlined to members of the North Halton Urban Board and representatives from other municipalities last week, includes appointment of a sort of super-assessor. The title would be assessment commissioner and he would be responsible for the assessment throughout the county with all the assessors working under him.

No longer would the local councils appoint an assessor. This would be done at the county level. The assessment commissioner would, through his office, process all the records and this, it was intimated, would lead to all the necessary IBM or other electronic processing equipment.

All of this is compared with the present system under which the county engages a county assessor. It is his task to co-ordinate the work of the assessors in the various municipalities to achieve some form of equalized assessment on which the levy of county expenditures can be based.

Why is there thought of change from the present system? Perhaps it is that the provincial government, through its grants, is encouraging such a change. The province will pay \$2,500 toward the salary of an assessment commissioner. They will also contribute to costs of setting up the office equipment and rental of necessary machinery. Underlying the considerations too, must be the possible efficiency of such an operation at a more centralized level and perhaps a more equitable assessment throughout the county under the direction of one assessment commissioner rather than through the

varied interpretations possible at the local assessor level.

There is an increasing trend toward the centralization of more and more services at the county level. It is impossible to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of such a trend and come up with a clear cut answer on the desirability of such a course. Just as there are efficiencies possible in increased size of a department whether it be assessment, fire protection or policing, so there is room for inefficiencies in the very bigness of the resulting structure.

The province is obviously trying to obtain more equitable assessment throughout the province so it may form a basis for its grant structure. To achieve this the beginning is made at the county level. Once the counties are equalized the province will also be on a more common base.

Frankly we don't think Halton's assessment is far off the desirable provincial base being aimed at, and the adoption of an assessment commissioner in the county would not seem to have any immediate benefits here. It would remove from the local area of responsibility the hiring of assessment staff. It would, however, add to the cost of county administration by a like or larger amount.

After having listened to a provincial representative recite passages from the act governing the appointment and operation of the assessment commissioner system of assessment, we developed a distaste for some of the powers that go with the position. For instance an assessment commissioner, once appointed by the county council and approved by the Minister, can only be removed by the council with the Minister's approval. This provincial power, at a local level, merely because of hand-outs from the province, leaves us dubious about the plan.

## A Commendable Effort...

The presentation of the sixth annual carnival by the Milton Figure Skating club deserves considerable praise.

In its one night stand it attracted a capacity audience and filled the ice surface with a commendable variety of events in which many local skaters were featured.

The increasing skill of local skaters is certainly evident with each passing carnival, and this is contributing greatly to the effectiveness of the event. It seems too, that all skaters are given a part and allowed to make their contribution whether they are a beginner or a more advanced pupil.

Back of the whole performance is a small

army of workers who are responsible for the less glamorous parts like obtaining costumes, fitting costumes, erecting scenery, operating spotlights, taking tickets and a host of other very necessary jobs.

Most of this work is done by mothers, the women of the Figure Skating Club and Rotarians. All deserve praise as do the performers and director club pro Ross Smith and assistant Andrew Drenters.

Through their co-operation, the show spectators saw on Saturday night was entertaining and of a calibre equal to that of any similar-sized municipality.

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## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### GLANCING BACK TO 10 YEARS AGO

Taken from the files of the Canadian Champion, April 22, 1954. Milton's newest industry, the only one of its kind in Ontario, begins production operations this week. Canadian Felling Zinc Oxide Ltd. formerly called Pigment Chemical Co. will produce zinc oxide known as "Felzo". Works manager at the new plant located on Main St. east of the C.P.R. tracks is Glyn Roberts, with Bob Coats as general foreman. Management director of the company is Walter S. Dixon.

Harold A. Speers has been appointed principal of the new Lowville graded school in Nelson township. Mr. Speers has for the past few years been active in community and educational work in Nelson and Nassagaweya townships. He is past president of Halton county branch of the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation.

### GLANCING BACK TO 20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the files of the Canadian Champion, April 20, 1944.

Fifty-one guests, 20 girls and 31 boys, highlighted the regular meeting of Halton County Council in Milton last Tuesday. The children assembled in the Court Room at 10.30 and were welcomed by the Warden. Lunch was served in Knox Church S.S. Rooms by members of the Ladies' Aid and was attended by County Council officials and their guests. Following the lunch there were two pleasing trumpet selections by Colin Anderson, accompanied by Mrs. Herbert Anderson at the piano. Reeve W. J. Robertson led the community singing which included patriotic and popular numbers. It was noted the children sang without benefit of song sheets when "Mairzy Doats" was selected, while voices at the head table were stragglers and conspicuously silent, even to that of the leader, Reeve Robertson. The executive of the local or-

Manor, Sgt. Harry Wilson reported, "We'd like to get our objective by the end of May anyway, so we could have them for this summer," said Sgt. Wilson.

Dr. A. Bull, Medical Officer of Health for Halton, was the speaker at the regular meeting of Milton Rotary Club on Tuesday. Dealing with the financial aspect of the Health Unit, Dr. Bull pointed out that the Unit operated on \$1.20 per capita and half of this was provided by taxation through the county with the other 60 cents coming from the Provincial Department of Health.

The Hornby 44 Garden Club was organized at the home of their leader, Mrs. D. Downs on April 16, with 10 girls present. They elected officers as follows: president, Evelyn McKay; secretary Margaret Stark; vice-president Helen Brucker; treasurer Barbara Martin; pianist, Martha May; press reporter Lynd Hill. They decided to call their club the Hornby Healthy Happy Hoers.

The Milton Girl Guides held a meeting last Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Lindsay. Miss Olive Canon was nominated as president and Wella Anderson, secretary. This organization is to provide a closer contact between the Guides and other organizations in the community. An editorial remarking on the late arrival of spring in 1944, noted that, "a late spring has its good points too. It postpones that inevitable urge for spring house-cleaning."

At their Tuesday County Council meeting, members moved the following resolution, "that as Highway No. 25 from Milton to Acton is, and for some time past, has been in a deplorable condition and unfit for motor traffic, this county council requests that the Ontario Department of Highways take immediate steps to remedy this condition and maintain said highway in proper condition."

### GLANCING BACK TO 50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the files of the Canadian Champion, April 23, 1914

Tuesday had been fixed for the trial of the charge laid by two Jewish peddlers against two Nassagaweya men, for stealing clothing from the peddlers' wagon. There was such a turnout of Nassagaweya friends of the accused and an opposing fraction favoring the peddlers that there was not nearly enough room for them in the Sheriff's office, where the police court was opened. The court room was not available as the county council was meeting in it. The hearing was adjourned until next Monday at the request of the peddlers, as Crown Attorney Dick was out of town and they objected to the case proceeding without counsel for the prosecution.

Fifteen witnesses were examined last Thursday in police court in the case on which C. E. Galloway was charged with running a billiard room without licenses. The club charter and other documents were produced. Magistrate Dice reserved his decision.

On the strength of Holy Rosary Church's reputation for giving good concerts, every reserved seat for that of last Friday evening was sold out Thursday and the hall was crowded when the concert came off. Mrs. Lily Lorrell Howard made a great hit with her readings. She has a good stage presence, was graceful and natural. She introduced songs and sang them well.

The county council of Wentworth has decided to enforce a by-law prohibiting use of narrow tires on county roads.

W. J. Martin, second son of Jasper Martin, arrived in town on Saturday evening. He spent the winter in west Canada and United States. He was two months with his brother, John who has fruit farms at Esparto, California.

The Board of Licence Commissioners for Halton met in Milton on Tuesday. All three were present, Messrs. H. A. Graham, J. F. Richardson and John Williams.

OAKVILLE — A former stable that housed thoroughbreds and was later transformed into a stylish apartment building, is being destroyed in Oakville. Situated on the north-west corner of the Seventh Line and Queen Elizabeth highway, it is being torn down after standing on the site for 30 years. A solid structure of concrete block, it was erected as a horse stable by thoroughbred trainer Hugh Wilson. Almost eight years later it was converted into an apartment building at an approximate cost of \$85,000.

BRAMPTON — Twelve bogus cheques valued at \$765.48 were passed in town recently, Brampton Police announced. The phoney cheques, all for \$63.79, were scattered throughout the downtown area and in the Mall. Police discovered the cheques, when a victimized merchant became suspicious while talking to a friend who received an identical cheque.

GEORGETOWN — A spirited complaint by a King St. East resident has prompted council to seek immediate action from the Canadian National Railways to overcome a situation which the resident says is "driving residents up the wall." Evidently diesel engines are parked and left idling on nights and weekends to avoid engine freezing. The residents complain that the engines constantly rattle windows and keep King St. residents awake. Councillors agreed to act immediately on the complaint.

WATERDOWN — A plan by the Waterdown branch of the Royal Canadian Legion to provide apartments for Senior Citizens at a low rental cost, came before council recently. The plans call for a 12 suite apartment which would be rented to senior citizens for \$40-\$50 per month. Council advised the Legion to obtain the land option, the required list of names and the actual plans for the building for CMHA approval and then council will fulfill their part of the plan.

ACTON — Retired 25 years ago as principal of Acton public school, Miss M. Z. Bennett was honored last week as Acton's seventh citizen of the year. "I'm really dumfounded!" the teacher noted, "I haven't done anything for years! I can't say any more than Thank you." A teacher since 1903, Miss Bennett ended her career in 1939, after 32 years as a teacher in Acton. She had previously taught at Clay Hill School, S.S. 10, Erin Township and Hornby.

There is no true security for the individual except as he finds it in the security of all.

—Edwin Markham.

## Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

If ever you decide to do some research on the lower forms of wit, I can tell you how to go about it. Just get yourself a black eye.

I had a doozer recently. My wife gave it to me. All right. Not that way. She was sitting in the car, waiting for me to carry the groceries into the house, through the rain. Just as I bent and reached for the car door to open it and ask her if that was all, she opened it smartly from the inside to ask me why I hadn't brought out an umbrella.

When the door nailed me in the eye, I thought I was a goner. My wife shrieked and ran straight into the house to see whether my "loss of limb or eye" accident policy was paid up.

Within a few minutes, the eye was the size and color of a bartender's beizer. But by the time we'd finished arguing about whose fault it had been, it was obvious that I'd live.

We didn't have a piece of steak and if we'd had, I doubt that it would have been sacrificed. But the Old Girl, bless her, dug out some hamburger that was going a bit blue, and made me lie down with a big hamburger

poultice on the injured optic.

Right off the ice, it felt pretty good at that, and I dropped off to sleep, moaning but brave. During the night, the bandage worked loose and when I woke in the dark, I thought the eye had fallen out. But it was only hamburger, all over the pillow.

Next morning, the orb looked like a purple golf ball. We patched it up as best we could and I set off to face the wits.

The comments were hilarious. They ranged from the simple, dry brilliance of "Hoo hitcha?" and "Forget to duck, eh?" to the coy, insinuating "I knew she'd catch up with ya some day." They ran the scintillating gamut from the inevitable "I suppose ya ran into a door" to the ineffably humorous sally, "Meet the former welterweight champ of the Smiley household."

I came back with some real funnies myself. "My wife," I replied. "Footwork isn't what it used to be." I admitted. "Yotta see the other guy." I quipped. I can go along with a joke as well as the next bird.

But after a while, in fact, if I remember rightly, it was



just after the fourteenth "Hoo hitcha?", I began getting a little sore. I mean, fun's fun, you know, but after all,

So when the next joker made his move, I told him, dolefully, that a maiden lady who didn't like my column had thrown acid in my face, and that I'd never have the sight of it again. He turned green.

My next customer was a woman, who tittered. "That'll teach you to write things about your wife in that column of yours." I gave her a gentle, sad look from my good eye, and suggested that she not let the divorce alienate her from my wife. I left her with her mouth open.

I quickly disposed of an elderly lady, strong in the temperance movement, by informing her the injury had been received from my young daughter, when she clobbered me on the eye with a half empty bottle. It's good sport. Next time the old trouble-and-strife hangs one on you, Jack, you'll know what to do.



## DOWN(S) IN THIS CORNER

WITH ROY DOWNS

GLANCING THROUGH the 1963 champion files the other day, I was interested in comparing the news of last April with this year's weekly happenings. It hardly seems a year ago we were embroiled in a five-man election race, pouring cement for the swimming pool, opening Mohawk Raceway, and voting on a library.

Last April a conservation authority merger was in the talking stages, today it's a reality. Three people died at Stewarttown in car accidents in one week, while this year we've had only one fatality in the North Halton area since the start of the year.

That same month they were tearing down Mrs. A. L. MacNabb's beautiful, 93-year-old house on Bronte St., and today there's nothing left, not even the rubble, just a man-made mountain that will soon be carrying 25 trains a day through where one of the upstairs bedrooms stood a year ago.

Remember Sandy Best, Ellis Fullerton, Irv Wilson, Henry Timmins? They're the guys who fought Harry Harley in the 1963 federal election, and we haven't heard much of any of the losers since then. Harley, of course, has been making a name for himself in Ottawa with his private bills and his work on the food and drug committee.

Hand Chemicals was haggling with the town over services for their "proposed" new industry a year ago. Now the plant is in limited operation and a huge building covers the former farm acreage where once councillors stood and scratched their heads while discussing the advisability of serving the out-of-town industrial plant.

The Charles hockey team last April got put out of the W.O.A.A. competitions by a hearty Orangeville crew. The same happened this year, only a month earlier. The music festival, the fashion shows, the library week obser-

vance and the grass fire season we went through last April, have returned in 1964.

In those issues last year The Champion was full of letters to the editor, mostly concerning the election. This year we can't scare up ANY letters to the editor, about anything. Last April the Ontario School for the Deaf opened to welcome the first students; and Thursday (today) those same students will be observing their school's first birthday with a tree planting ceremony.

There are many other events that bring back vivid memories of last April, as you leaf through the old files.

"The old order changeth...."

IS IT POSSIBLE that Milton needs a United Appeal Fund? Every once in a while I get to thinking about the U.A. and it's been running through my mind this month as I look over the various campaigns that seem to be overlapping each other.

All are good causes, mind you, and I have contributed or plan to give to each one.

But the Easter Seals, Canadian Cancer Society, Swimming Pool, Retarded Children's and Mental Health campaigns have all been lumped into April and early May — and it's getting pretty hard on the pocketbook to have to shell out almost weekly to one charitable cause or another.

Is United Appeal the answer? If you have any opinions, we'd be glad to hear them. Better still, write a letter to the editor and let our readers share your views.

## Money and Vulgarity

The British publishers of the paperback edition of "Lady Chatterley's Lover" made \$173,000 profit out of it in two months.

When the celebrated Dr. Samuel Johnson was accused by a lady of putting vulgar words in his first English dictionary, he replied: "Madam, you were looking for them." Perhaps something of the sort might be said of many of those who have made Lady Chatterley's publishers prosperous.