



# Jim's JOTTINGS

BY JIM DILLS

AS SOMEONE on the staff was telling me, this is National Pickle Week. And of course, another wit had to suggest, "That's good news for dills."

MILTON'S fame spreads by many and varied ways. One reader passed on to me a clipping from the Peterboro Examiner outlining in some details the plans to illuminate street corners with lighted street markers. After outlining the plan, the Peterboro editor comments, "... perhaps we should help tourists find their way about with illuminated signs like those used now in the rural town of Milton."

EXACT locations of Milton's early electric light plants eluded me completely when the history of electricity was prepared recently. Early newspaper accounts never bothered to be specific about locations, assuming everyone already knew. R. M. Clements was good enough to report the first electric light plant was on Victoria Ave. on the north-west side of Elizabeth St. The second plant was the back of the present Halton Creamery Products and of course, the third was beside the town hall. Now the record is reasonably complete, un-

less anyone else can volunteer some additional information, which I'll be happy to receive.

IT'S A LONG TIME since I've seen boys riding on a raft, but the other night, I noticed a couple enjoying themselves fully on a home-made assemblage of boards in the "upper reaches" of the Mill Pond. The paddles looked like brooms but the raft's progress was visibly helped with their use. Couldn't help recall some of the exploits of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn and hope that the area would be preserved for future "expeditions."

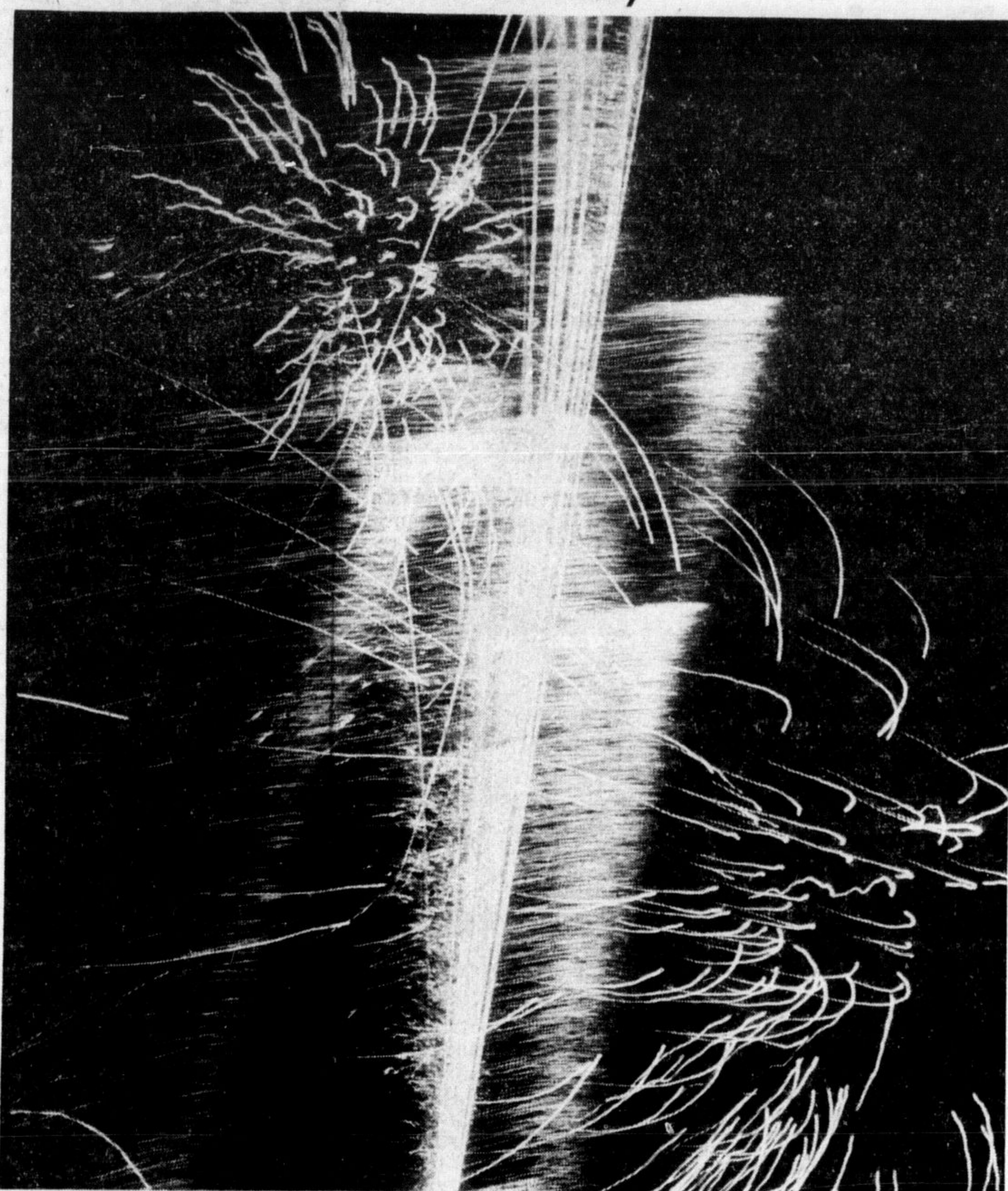
WALKED ON through the bush area to where the water to the pond is separated from the water to the by-pass stream. Didn't notice many wild flowers but my return trip was perhaps slower and the trilliums, dog tooth violets and some of the other wonders of nature began to appear to my less-hurried eye. Apparently it takes a leisurely walk through the bush to really see what is there.

HYDRO OFFICIALS were as distressed as anyone about the black-out on Friday night, particularly when they found the

cause. Children using railway ballast and aiming at power line insulators may seem innocent sport, but when the result of a broken insulator is felt town-wide, as it was Friday, the seriousness is driven home. When you figure that about 10,000 people were without electricity because one person scored a hit on an insulator, you realize the problem. The inconvenience is one thing and the cost of repair is another. A hydro crew tracing the problem meant upset plans for the linesmen's evening, as well as the actual cost of the repairs by the emergency crew. Perhaps parents might take a minute to explain to the young area marksmen just what happens when they aim at insulators.

THIS IS Beautification Month locally and residents are urged to do their part by bending efforts toward inside and outside beautification. Every community can do with a little polishing up after the winter and this one is no exception. The job, however, is easiest tackled by everyone working in their own yard and property. The combined result gives the town a fresh sparkle and that's what counts.

24th of May



## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### GLANCING BACK TO 10 YEARS AGO

Taken from the files of the Canadian Champion, May 13, 1954  
"It's just like trying to build a house without a front door," Trustee Jim Bell concluded after members of the School Board met in a special three hour session Wednesday in an effort to scale down plans for the proposed six room public school. Council last week refused approval since the cost of \$120,000 exceeded by \$7,000 the amount on which departmental grants would be given. As the meeting broke up into groups to study plans and proposed changes, members expressed opposition to cutting the building without consideration to future expansion.

Council recommended that all lots be 50 feet frontage, a 25 foot pedestrian right-of-way through either lots 51 or 52 be allowed to the rail right-of-way; and a pedestrian walk or street be provided from the south corner of the subdivision to Martin St.

Two Milton winners were recorded in the class for boys 12 and over at the annual Halton County Music Festival on Friday during the urban public school competition. Don Wilson claimed top honors with Barry Burne placing second. Festival winners competing in the high school classes on Thursday evening included six Milton high school students. Harold Brain won third place for the solo, Leonard Berry was second as a tenor solo and Barbara Cunningham won second for her solo open to girls under 21. Carol Tufford and Heather Anne Hayward won first place for the duet open to girls under 17.

### GLANCING BACK TO 20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the files of the Canadian Champion, May 11, 1944  
The Princess Theatre was filled to capacity last Thursday evening, the occasion being a Victory Loan Rally staged by the Teachers and Scholars of Milton Public School. A program of short plays, songs and choruses was rendered in a manner which was a credit to the performers. Great credit is due to Principal Foster, his staff, Mrs. McLellan, music teacher and other who coached and assisted in the splendid performance.

George Morley, Hugh Patterson, Jimmie Kerr, D. Gray, Peter Kennedy, E. Fav, F. Crowe, C. Cation. On Monday evening, N. Pickett spoke and Tuesday night, Mayor Dawson addressed the audience. Both gentlemen expressed the need of a playground in our community and thanked citizens for their response. Assisting in the draw were C. Clark and Mrs. George Coulson.

We are now in the final week of Canada's Sixth Victory Loan and we in Milton and District are far from having reached the quota of \$335,000, our share in the loan. Unless we have a greater response during the next few days, we will have failed our task, a task of supporting Milton and District sons and daughters, who are fighting our fight in this battle for freedom. This is everyone's fight. Surely when the low paid soldier, who is in this fight for us, can buy bonds to the extent of going over the quota set for them, we at home should feel that we ought to buy to our fullest extent and by doing so, we may show our Canadian sons and daughters that we are with them until the final victory is assured.

### GLANCING BACK TO 50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the files of the Canadian Champion, May 14, 1914.

That disease thrives in Ontario schools to a deplorable extent was the declaration at Toronto of Dr. F. S. Millan, of Essex, when speaking before the Ontario Health Officers' Association. He said 30 percent of the deaths among students were from tuberculosis, while only 7 percent of the deaths among other people were caused by this disease. He had visited one school that was scrubbed only four times a year and others that had cracked floors and leaking roofs.

Edgar Norris is one of the citizens of Milton desirous of putting the old cemetery into decent condition. In order to find out its owner he searched in the Registry Office. The last record there, was that of a deed dated 29th January 1848 by Joseph Mar-

tin to Gore District Council for one-quarter of an acre for a common school. According to this the county of Halton holds the title. The gas pressure where Morgan Crewson is drilling for oil west of the C.P.R. station is computed to be 40 pounds to the inch. The gas was lighted on Monday night and brilliantly illuminated the derrick and the surrounding scene. Mr. Crewson will continue drilling until he strikes oil or granite. The depth is now about 1,600 feet.

Major F. H. Deacon brought in his car the leader of the Opposition from Toronto to the Liberal convention here last Friday afternoon. After the meeting and before setting out on their return to Toronto, they and several other prominent Liberals dined at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. McCannell.

## Sugar and Spice ...

BY BILL SMILEY



Everybody is writing about Shakespeare these days. The only sour note in the fanfare of acclaim marking his 400th anniversary is a deep, rumbling sound that has many people baffled.

or Marlowe or the Earl of Something.

Let's look for a moment at the real Will Shakespeare.

A few romantics claim it is the ghostly applause of nearly four centuries of playgoers, echoing down the years. A few realists assert that it is the mutinous numbling of 20 generations of students who had to memorize chunks from his works.

We find him in the hundreds of brief passages that have come ringing down the years with their universal truths. He had to put them in the mouths of others, of course, but the man himself is there, warm, alive, grinning, scowling, scolding, exulting.

Personally, I think the discordant note is caused by the rapid rotation in his grave of the bones of The Bard, a shrewd businessman, as he agonizes over all those royalties he is not collecting.

What could be more human, for instance, than his pride in his own success? When the opening night performance of Hamlet showed that the play was a smash, he deftly inserted in the last scene, and on the spur of the moment, the joyful line, "A hit, a very palpable hit."

Otherwise, things are going swimmingly as the critics and professors of English peer and peck and poke among the magnificent debris, and the inane argument about who really wrote the plays - waxes - once more with futile fury.

We can see his amused tolerance of his wife's lack of muscle in another famous line. She'd been spring cleaning and had slipped a disc while trying to move an old trunk full of sonnets. "Eralty, thy name is woman," quipped Will.

But I'm not concerned with that. There are enough people plodding about through his works, trampling poetry underfoot as they search for clues to prove that he was really Bacon

We can sympathize with his honest rage (this was before dry-cleaning) as he scrubbed the gray stain on his new silk breeches and bellowed, "Out, damned spot! Out, I say!"

What man's heart does not warm to The Bard's forthright suggestion, in Henry VI, Part 2, "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers."

Is there a housewife living who has not echoed, at some time, Shakespeare's immortal comment when his wife came home from the butcher with a stringy roast, "This is the most unkindest cut of all?"

Many a man has wished he had the gift, and the nerve, that Will displayed the night he got home from the pub, tiddly and tardy, and was confronted by his wife, her sister, and his mother-in-law. Did he say he was sorry and would never do it again? Not he. He roared, "How now, you sceret, black and midnight hags!"

He knew men, as witness, "Tis ever common that men are merriest when they are from home." He knew women, too. "There was never yet a fair woman but she made mouths in a glass."

As this piece of research ends, I can hear a multitude of English teachers saying, in unison, "For this relief, much thanks."

## Don't Rush to Sign ...

"If you don't want, can't afford it, or don't need it, don't buy it". By itself such a suggestion seems quite unnecessary and perhaps a little foolish, but believe us, the warning is still apparently necessary.

Talking with a police official this week and he suggested it was amazing what people really didn't want but ended up buying or signing long-term financing contracts.

At the root of the problem seemed to be the overwhelming feeling, on the part of the "suckers" that they were going to get something for nothing. Now after some trying experiences, which inevitably include running to the police crying fraud, the individuals are much wiser and much poorer.

Pamphlets mailed out to homeowners offering free this or free that, for some seemingly innocent action, usually trigger the series for events that follow. Once they have your name you become a prospect. Once you become a prospect you can count on it some-one, with well prepared pitch and hungry eyes, is only a short distance from your pocketbook.

## Government and Individuals ...

There is mounting concern that the activity of government may soon overbalance the rights of the individual and destroy the individualism that pioneers areas and builds countries.

A newcomer to the provincial legislature, Halton's George Kerr, in the report to constituents in this week's issue, says "As a new member I was surprised how much the Provincial Government affects the day-to-day lives of the people of Ontario. There is no question but that the spheres of influence are greater than any other level of government in Canada and are becoming greater ..."

It is quite evident that the mounting requests for government assistance, intervention or direction in a wide variety of fields will continue as long as there is some feeling that it doesn't cost anything if government does it. The municipal tax bill, arriving directly on the door step, seems more closely related to the individual than do the hidden and unknown taxes by which the province gathers its revenue.

One of the most recent outrages for governmental action has been in dealing with lake levels. Now perhaps we're somewhat naive but we didn't realize that government had been charged with some special responsibility by Nature to take care of lake levels. Studies have shown that lake levels do vary within some cyclical patterns. Undoubtedly

By this time it is important that you not be rushed into signing anything. And this is often where the difficulty develops. Limited time offers and all sorts of gimmicks are introduced to put the pressure on for an immediate signature, sometimes even on an uncompleted contract.

If you overcome the first hurdle of panic you've got time to check out some of the promises as well as the contract. Sure, a lawyer will charge you to read it and give an opinion, but it may be a worthwhile investment now, rather than later. If the cold, ritual eye of the lawyer reduces the thing to a poor deal, you've saved a lot of cash. If on the other hand it still looks o.k., you can go ahead with confidence.

This is the season for home improvements and all kinds of gimmick deals. If you want to be safe rather than sorry, look them over carefully and remember once you've signed you're committed to a legal battle if you want to get out of it. The police can't help if you can't do much for yourself.

Look that deal over first.

there are permits granted for water taking, by provincial authorities, but it seems somewhat misplaced to look to Legislators to raise lake levels.

Indeed one wonders if the faith of the people of the province is not sadly misplaced in depending on legislators for things that are more rightly a concern between themselves and the balances of Nature.

Today it seems the individual is lost in an age where even common sense must be legislated and the pattern will be duplicated many times over as long as we continue to look to government to bail us out of situations into which we have put ourselves. Just as lake levels may be affected by good conservation practice, so government action and intervention are affected by the increasing demands from its citizens. In both there must be some realization that we, as individuals, should be playing a part rather than looking to some provincial Santa Claus for all the answers.

It would be refreshing to hear someone call for action on the part of individuals, rather than running off to the province with a brief and snoring legislators under with some more problems for special committees and boards. Perhaps the difficulty, however, is in finding any real individual since everyone now seems to be part of a "crowd."

## DOWN(S) IN THIS CORNER

WITH ROY DOWNS



A SAD NOTE for noisy types: The town is taking up the cudgels on noises and nuisances. There's nothing definitely settled yet, but Milton may soon have an anti-noise and anti-nuisance by-law that will be a boon to us quiet types.

Police Chief Ray Andress borrowed a copy of an excellent by-law now in effect in Oakville, and after councillors gave it a quick perusal, they passed it on to solicitor K. Y. Dick to see if it would work here. I hope they say yes.

In a covering letter, Chief Andress points out some of the disturbances reported to police over the past three years, over which they legally have no control.

Factory whistles blowing at night, strong lights on car parking lots that shine into bedroom windows, firecracker noises, loud radios and musical instruments played outdoors till 3 and 4 a.m., loudspeakers on cars, steam whistles at 4 a.m., large motors running without exhaust mufflers on Sundays, builders pounding away until 11 p.m., youths playing car radios too loudly on Main St. at 2 a.m., squealing

brakes and tires, and racing motors in the downtown area in the middle of the night ... All have been actual complaints investigated by the police.

Most complaints were quickly settled by police with stern warnings, and no charges laid. But, points out the Chief, if the noisy people won't take the police advice seriously, there is no by-law under which they CAN be charged!

OAKVILLE'S by-law, if adopted here, would easily cover all of these instances, and more. It prohibits noxious fumes or gases from passing over your own property line, vibrations from industrial plants bothering neighbors, and the hauling of offensive matter on highways unless properly enclosed.

It covers such nuisances as the dumping of refuse, grinding, grating or rattling sounds, mufflers on all mechanical engines, loud birds or animals disturbing the peace, and bells, horns, or signal devices that are either loud or long.

The by-law prohibits noise em-

inating from construction sites between the hours of 6 p.m. and 7 a.m.; unnecessary noise near schools, hospitals or courtrooms in session; and drums, bells, horns, radios, bells or loudspeakers used to advertise a place of business or a coming attraction.

THE BY-LAW DOES allow such sounds as open air concerts or political meetings, public celebrations, band parades, railroads, newsboys or hawkers or pedlars plying their trade, police, fire or ambulance vehicle sirens, the Salvation Army and car radios quiet enough they cannot be heard at a distance of over 25 feet.

The maximum fine in Oakville is \$300 plus costs. If Oakville police are administering the by-law, and I suspect they are, Oakville should be a quiet town, free of noises and nuisances.

To me it sounds like a good by-law. I hope the town soon implements it. There's a certain steam whistle that blows periodically throughout the night at a certain local industry, that I'd like to see silenced. It's not loud enough to keep you awake, but it's loud enough to prevent you from going back to sleep if you wake up at 3 a.m.

Too toot to you, fellow.

ANCIENT HEBREW decreed that when a man had just married, he could not, for the first year, go to war or enter a new business. The statute gave as reason that "he should be free at home one year and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken."

## The Canadian Champion

Published by the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.

G. A. Dills, Editor-in-Chief James A. Dills, Managing Editor Roy Downs, News Editor

Published every Thursday at 191 Main St., Milton, Ont. Member of the C.W.N.A., the Ontario-Quebec Division C.W.N.A. and Canadian Community Newspapers Representatives. Subscriptions payable in advance, \$3.00 in Canada; \$4.00 in England and other Commonwealth Countries \$5.00 in the U.S.A., and other Foreign Countries. Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa

Advertising is accepted in the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time."

### NASTY TRICK

Ontario Safety League passes on, without commendation, a note found by a doctor on the windshield of his unattended and damaged car: "The people who saw me crash your fender with my car, and are now watching me write this note, naturally think I'm writing my name and address, so you can contact me to pay the damages. But, I'm not."

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

No free spirit ever dreamed of "security" - or, if he did, he laughed; and lived to shame his dream.

-E. E. Cummings