



Jim's Jottings

by jim dills

* The approaching election refreshes my memory on a reader's earlier suggestion. She suggested there might be sufficient interest in a course on political science if it were offered at the Night School. Certainly it would be too late to be of any help in this election, but with the frequency of elections these days a course might attract reasonable support.

* Belated congratulations to the Ontario School for the Deaf, Milton on its fifth anniversary. It hardly seems that half a decade of operation has slipped by but the first pupils arrived in April 1963. With a staff of about 300, the school and its children seem to have carved a warm spot in Milton's heart too, which is most desirable.

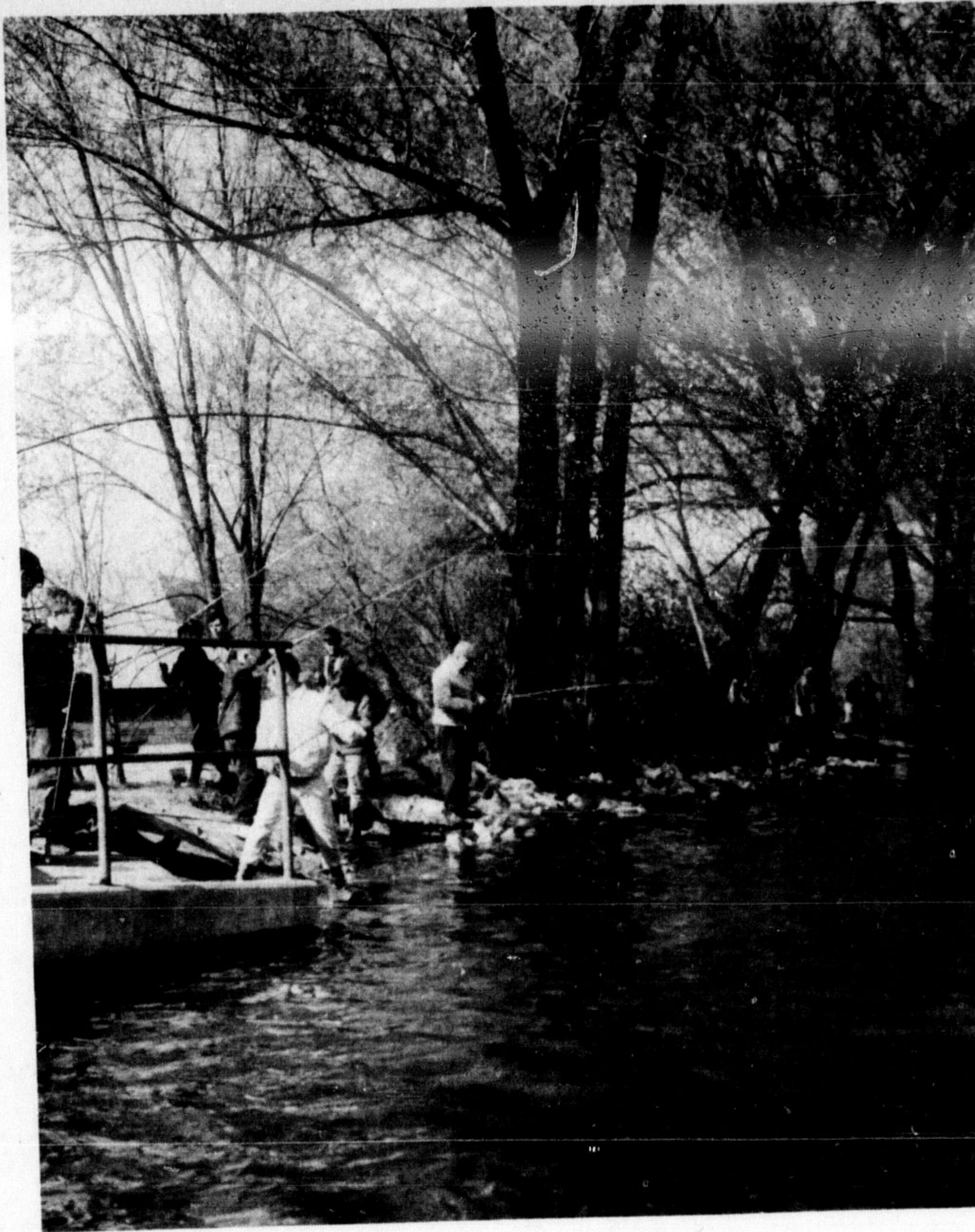
* This year's CNE will be spread over 19 days including the three Sundays. Up to now the big show has managed to close on Sunday but the fun-fun-fun pressures are pretty tremendous these days and the show has capitulated to them. And to go along with it, the CNE has approved requests for permits to serve alcoholic beverages on the grounds seven days a week.

* Got a real kick out of seeing all those eager fishermen lining the bank at the Centennial Mill Pond on Saturday morning. They were catching some, too. Not the kind of harvest that was going on last year, but the sportsman-like catching that good fishermen enjoy. And the sun was bright and the sky was blue and it was a beautiful day to relax on the bank -- if you were dressed warmly.

* You can spend an interesting half hour at Niagara Falls if you take time to visit the Hydro Hall of memories. On a trip with grade 13 students last week I visited the spot for a second time and every visit seems to add new interest. Some of the early bulbs and fixtures are there to revive your memories. A stove on exhibit really appealed to me. Its warming closet with a sectioned dish, seemed to be the answer on how to get everything prepared and hot to be served at one time. That's always been the supreme challenge of cooking a dinner for me.

* Absent from this space for a couple of weeks to make room for John McGee's excellent feature on Israel provided a refreshing break. Didn't think much about it until one reader inquired what happened to this column. I emphasize one reader asked, Perhaps the message is I only have one reader and better not leave the space again if I ever want back.

* I went through the office this morning trying to determine the date of Arbor Day. The dictionary offered no help and the staff hadn't heard about it. Surely Arbor Day on which school yards were cleaned up and trees planted is not that ancient or long-forgotten. Noticed where one conservation authority is staging an arbor day for families to plant trees in specific areas. A certificate of participation is given to the family. Something similar was tried in Victoria Park where families could plant a centennial tree. Interest, unfortunately, failed to get far beyond the councillors and parks board members.



TROUT FISHING SEASON OPENED on Saturday morning and the lure of those 100 new Rainbow Trout stocked in Centennial Park pond recently by the Halton Sportsmen's Association brought out a crowd of opening day Isaac Waltons. There were plenty of Rainbows and Speckles caught on the weekend, as crowds lined the banks. (Staff Photo)



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Somebody is reading this thing, anyway. Letters have been coming in shovefuls lately. Keep it up, chaps, whether you agree or not.

A recent column on high taxes seemed to touch a sore spot. I didn't hear from the Minister of Finance, but I did hear from a number of people who are getting hot under the collar as various levels of government take bigger and bigger bites from an apple that has already been well chewed.

Ken Gagnon of Tillsonburg dislikes compulsory benefits. He says the needy, after a means test, should be looked after, but those who just don't want to work should be given menial labor if they want public hand-outs. He also protests the costly commissions established to investigate tax and other problems, and whose reports, after a cursory examination, are shelved.

G. MacDonald of Toronto, with terse Scot sense, says, "The government has become top-heavy." Mrs. M. Ferguson, also of Toronto, tells of the incredible cost per day for a hospital bed in a public ward in that city -- from \$45.15 to \$52.50 a day, for those who don't have provincial hospital insurance. And many don't.

Wm. E. Smith of Oakville writes, "Just wanted to get my two cents worth into support your views." Fastened to his letter were three pennies, with the postscript, "Why the extra penny? Tax."

The Whipp Affair. You remember Mr. Whipp, editor of the Petrolia weekly, who warned me to stop writing about education and teen-agers, or he'd cancel. Buckets of letters excoriating Mr. W. and encouraging your hero. It seems that there are a lot of people, of all ages, who are interested in these topics.

Many of them run to two or three typed pages, but I'll quote excerpts from a few which are representative.

David Bell of Preston: "Your column swings with its own sweet suburban rhythm. Keep telling it like it is."

Mrs. Mina Wesley of Georgetown: "Felt impelled to write as per invitation. I never

miss reading you. Does that mean anything? Think you are 'kinda good'." Thank you ma'm. Sometimes I'm kinda bad, too, but it usually makes me feel kinda good.

Mary McCaughna of Keswick swings into rhyme: "Tell that managing editor to jump in the lake;

I subscribe to the Era mostly for your sake;

As to teen-agers call 'em young adults, Perhaps then, by semantics, you'll get better results.

As to education, you're in it, well brother so are we, And besides, as you mentioned, it certainly isn't free."

T. A. Deans of London: "If, in some of your columns, you stress education and youth -- good for you. You obviously don't agree with Richard J. Needham, I do. But, education, whether formal or informal, is essential, and for the Managing Editor of a paper to threaten to cancel a column of references to it is completely idiotic." This was one of his milder paragraphs.

A teen-ager from Walkerton: "I think that your column is one of the most alive writings in today's newspapers. . . Being a teen-ager is one of the roughest, and loneliest times I have reached. I'm torn between loyalty to my parents and anger at them for clipping the wings that I think are full-grown enough to fly. It's particularly hard when I start to wonder if I'm the only one that acts this way, and ask myself, 'What's the matter with me, anyway?' There's more, but she ends, 'So please keep reaching out to students and teen-agers, Mr. Smiley; too few people do!'"

A former student, Maureen Schwartz (Killoran), of Cooksville, writes hotly in defence, but she's prejudiced (I gave her 85 in English). Not long out of her teens, she's getting the message: "Speaking of raising kids -- it is no wonder the 'older generation' always seems to be making such a mess of things. Raising the 'younger generation' is enough to reduce them to babbling idiots. . . All this and my kidlet is 17 months. What will I be saying when she is 17 years?" All I can say is that you wouldn't believe your ears, Maureen.

Give up, Mr. Whipp?



Down[s] in this Corner

with roy downs

I can't get over what a wonderful service for Halton's aged residents is being provided by the Halton Centennial Manor. It's a wonderful place to be for the hundreds of senior citizens no longer able to care for themselves.

And while the new Martin House is primarily a bed-care centre for non-ambulatory residents, those who live in the original building known as Pettit House are a lively bunch who still get a lot of fun out of life.

Regular news reports on extra-curricular activities at the Manor, by our two volunteer news reporters Mrs. M. Warbanks and Miss Lottie Moore, continue to amaze me when I see the many and varied activities available to the residents. Many of them work in the hobby class, tend gardens and flowers, play shuffleboard, do carpentry work or find mental chores around the building to help them keep busy.

For those not so inclined toward physical activity, there's always a card game going, someone to talk to, or a handy TV to watch.

Church services are held regularly, with many Milton and district ministers leading the services which are largely attended. And the special activities range from movie nights to dances, bingo to birthday parties. Each month a birthday party honors all those adding a year to their age during the month, and the W.A. has launched a special "Over 90 Club" for those with the distinction of achieving their 90th birthday or better.

A host of organizations around the country visit the Manor frequently with treats for the residents, or to put on some entertainment. Bingo games are one of the most popular -- the prizes may only be a ball-point pen, a hankie or a package of gum, but you would think it was a \$500 jackpot game when you see how excited some of the Manorites get when they're just short one number.

The best part about the Manor is that while the residents are old in years, they are still young at heart. Our reporter tells

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Champion Editorial Page

Service well given

The announcement at a Sunday press conference that Dr. Harry Harley will not seek re-election to Parliament is regrettable.

During his years as Halton's representative to Ottawa we have found him particularly conscientious in service to his riding as well as in his committee work and in the House.

His decision to retire from federal politics produces a wide-open election in Halton, with none of the parties having a candidate in the field for the June 25 election.

Since entering politics in 1963, Dr. Harley has fought three elections. It is quite possible the thought of another one in so short a time would have little appeal. Federal politics with its im-

portunity governments of recent years has not offered much in the way of security and the work of committees is frequently interrupted too.

As chairman of the federal investigations into drug safety and the cost of drugs, he gave competent service and his leadership in the hearings on birth control and abortion was also of a high calibre.

Dr. Harley's representation of Halton was that of a good member of parliament. The calibre of his representation was of the highest and the pattern for a successor is well-established.

We wish Dr. Harley success in his future endeavors and offer our public appreciation for his representation over the past years.

Birthday 108

The Champion this week winds up 108 years of service to the community. Those little figures on the front page -- Vol. 108--No. 52 herald the end of another year and next week a whole new volume starts.

None of us were around 108 years ago but probably James A. Campbell's first issue of The Canadian Champion was received politely and studied questioningly. It wasn't Milton's first newspaper, nor would it be its only newspaper. Printers, however, were given to starting publications with a kind of courage peculiar to that era. Today's equipment requirements to operate a newspaper are something more significant than a font of type and a hand press.

The Champion is the only survivor of that era of 108 years ago in Milton and in Halton County. Other publications have come and gone. Of papers established soon afterwards, few copies remain. The Champion's files still extend back, however, to 1864 and the glimpse they give of life in that time is reflected in the 100 years ago column that appears in each issue.

While history and longevity indicate something of stability, they do little in meeting the needs of readers week af-

ter week in the fast-paced twentieth century. Printing methods have changed dramatically, reporting has had to become crisper to meet space limitations, color in advertising is accommodated, and typesetting procedures have undergone electronic changes.

Every issue of The Champion has to stand on its own with the readers. Few are concerned with last week's issue when a new one greets them and we're thankful that just as some of the top issues are quickly forgotten, so are some that seem to contain more than their share of difficulties and errors.

Life at The Champion seems to be one of constant change. A few years ago a new typeface was a significant difference but the pace of electronic changes and forms of automation is rapid and whole new approaches to type and newspaper changes are constantly under study.

There's a certain pride at The Champion too, that it is still privately owned while weekly and daily newspapers all around are merging, amalgamating or being formed by metropolitan giants. The financial resources of such large organizations must make it easier to finance some of the expensive changes that are required to keep pace in the industry, but they still require interested, involved people. That can be a rare commodity.

We're looking forward to Volume 109. We've got some changes in the works and readers can be confident The Champion will be as well produced, its news as well reported and its advertisers as well serviced as any publication can possibly provide. Milton is our home base and the total Milton area will be our continuing concern and weekly subject.

PEEKING INTO MILTON'S PAST



R. C. CUNNINGHAM loaned this series of snapshots showing the progress of his store on Main St. at the corner of James -- now Salon Capri and Ledwith's Super Save branch store. Above photo shows it in 1927, shortly after William Atkinson sold it to Mr. Cunningham. The new owner brought the horse from Drayton to deliver groceries. The brick building to the right of the

corner store was torn down in 1952 to make way for what is now the Ledwith store. Below on the left is how it appeared in 1943, when Mr. Cunningham installed the new store front. The final photo shows it in 1953 when he leased the left side to Simpsons-Sears and moved his grocery store into the part now occupied by Ledwith's.



Pages of the Past

from champion files

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, April 29, 1948.

The pilot and his two companions stepped uninjured from the cabin of a Piper Cub plane after it crashed during a take-off on the farm of Allan Clements a mile south of here Sunday afternoon. Describing the incident, Clements said the craft was off the ground but the undercarriage struck a small mound of straw, forcing the plane back to the ground again. He tried to level it out to gain altitude but the wing touched a fence post, turning the craft partially around before it came to a stop. Damage to the plane included a bent undercarriage, two rips in a wing, a dent under the body and a damaged propeller. A crew arrived from Milton to dismantle the craft, removing parts to make the necessary repairs.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, May 2, 1918.

Herald Burned Out :- We are sorry to report that early last Thursday morning a fire broke out in the office of the Georgetown Herald. All of the printing plant was destroyed and the building badly gutted. The fire brigade did good work and prevented any serious damage to any adjoining property. The loss of the newspaper plant, owned by J. M. Moore, was about \$5,000 and that on the building, owned by R. D. Warren is \$3,000. Both were partially insured. Mr. Moore issued a small sized Herald for the week and it is hoped that it will be full sized next week. The many friends of the two newspapermen will join in The Champion's regret and sympathy.

Remember, you save two cents on every 3 lb. loaf of bread by coming to the store. We sell for 20¢ a loaf over the counter. Phone 67. - A. L. Chambers.

On Monday, at about 5 a.m., the roof of Adam Alexander's fine stone dwelling a little west of D. Robertson & Co's lime-works, Nassagaweya, caught fire, from a chimney, it is supposed. There was a gale blowing from the west and before the fire was noticed, it was beyond control by any means available for fighting it. Mr. Alexander has a fine private waterworks system but unfortunately the nozzle of his hose was mislaid and was not found until it was too late. The house was gutted but practically all its contents were saved. The direction of the wind saved the barns, which are to the west of the building.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, April 30, 1868.

One of those abominable institutions called charivaris was enacted in Milton on Saturday night last. The occasion of a wedding in high life, at the fashionable west end, was the moving cause. The gallant Knight of the Scissors and the fair but frail Melinda, youngest daughter of Dr. Smith, Kingston, alluded to in our account at the skirmish of Warrendale, were united in the holy bands of wedlock, and because "no cards were issued" the boys took offence and got up a "shiveree". For a wonder it ended up with "nobody hurt."

On the 20th inst., at Campbellville, born to the wife of Mr. John Coote, a son.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children's teething. Greatly facilitates the process of teething, by softening the gums, reducing all inflammation -- will allay all pain and spasmodic action and is sure to regulate the bowels. Depend upon it, mothers, it will give you rest to yourselves and relief and health to your infants. Sold by druggists throughout the world. Price only 25¢ per bottle.

The young ladies of Milton gave the young gentlemen a Leap Year party in the Town Hall, on Thursday last. The affair passed off well. The ladies according to their privilege escorted the gentlemen to their respective abodes.

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