



Jim's Jottings

by jim dills

* One fifth of the world's population is estimated to have seen it. Countless thousands followed the countdowns, the launch, the landing on the moon. It was "one small step for man but one giant step for mankind" as the first earthman stepped onto the lunar surface. An accomplishment, recognized in the lifetime of those who contributed to its success, as no other discovery ever was.

* As these notes are written there lies ahead the return of the Eagle to the orbiting base and the safe return to earth of the three astronauts. The success to date seems to indicate little cause for concern with all the systems working efficiently but until the return we will still, like millions of others, be intently interested in the final result.

* There are two unfortunate aspects to the declining market for wheat while Canada is producing more than ever. The first and most obvious, of course, is that perhaps in a generation many of those starving in other nations could learn to make use of it and handle it efficiently, providing one route to a reduction in starvation. The other aspect is that it takes the prime minister to outline the simplest solution to the problem, grow less wheat. The super sales of the government against world markets in which the price is dropping, just aren't good enough any more. The simple answer is grow less wheat although implementing the suggestion may be more intricate.

* For those who would exercise more control over advertising it might be

interesting to note that the Independent Television Companies Association Copy Committee in Britain rejected nearly 1,000 commercials or nearly 15 per cent of the total submitted. Things like scenes showing children handling a bottle of bleach or climbing a drainpipe to prove how tough a pair of shoes was were cause for elimination. In our business we reject ads every month because we don't think they're honest or legitimate. Control is being exercised, even if all people don't know about it.

* Unbelievable as it seems, one of the reasons I discovered that a number of warning flashing lights on an area construction project were not working was because someone had stolen the batteries that operate them. Safety conscious as many people are, there are others who thwart the best efforts by what is nothing short of malicious damage. On the same project someone with a twisted sense of humor moved the barricade to block the road. In the darkness and on a road under construction, that can spell a serious accident. Is there actually someone around who would get some sort of kick out of such a tragedy?

* Another very good letter to the editor had to be assigned to the "wait-and-see" file. It didn't have a signature which is required before we will publish such letters. Now we'll have to wait-and-see if someone complains that it didn't appear, at which time we can invite them to sign the letter and we'll clear it for publication. Please sign your name to letters to the editor, even if you want us to use a pen-name.



The old swimmin' hole

—(Staff Photo)

Champion

Editorial Page

Some working machinery . . .

Warden George Currie spearheaded one of the most practical moves in regional government, from a county standpoint, that has been taken in the months since the proposals on the subject were advanced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

At last week's county council meeting, the warden announced establishment of a staff committee, made up of the clerks from the county's seven municipalities. The work of the committee is to be co-ordinated by the county clerk-administrator.

Finally some practical steps will be taken to get to the heart of the kind of problems which regional government can present and hopefully some intelligent solutions can be advanced before the county is saddled with proposals thought out only in the ivory towers of Toronto.

Frequently the nuts and bolts of a new program require the hiring of a consultant. The usual course is for the consultant to then swoop in and pick the brains of local officials whose aid is also enlisted in providing mountains of statistics. A report is then presented and the government is left a little poorer and perhaps not much wiser.

In this case the warden has proposed harnessing the considerable experience and the collective wisdom of people who know the county best. The clerks of the individual

municipalities know each other well and they also know the setting into which the proposed regional government must fit. They can be a great strength to the elected officials by alerting them to the possible problem areas and by enabling them to discuss far more intelligently the whole concept of regional government.

We have been sharply critical of the county's lack of activity in coping with the regional government proposals advanced early this year. It was only after considerable debate that agreement was reached to press for a separate Halton region rather than acceptance of the proposed Peel-Halton merger. Since then the regional government activity in Halton has been practically non-existent.

Announcement by the Minister that a study of the economics of regional government was being undertaken seemed to provide ample excuse to continue the lack of activity.

The Warden, however, has now set up the county's own study and it is to be hoped it will produce the necessary back-up information for the elected officials in whose hands the final outcome of regional government will depend during discussions with the province.

We commend the Warden and the county for finally establishing some working machinery on the subject.

Evidence of waste . . .

Evidence of the colossal waste we seem prepared to accept, can be seen along the roadsides, in the parks and in the vandalism of public property about which everyone is concerned but no one is prepared to do anything.

We become almost violent when we see the result of vandalism in parks and conservation areas. But what troubles us even more are the "nice" people who can leave a clutter of papers and wrappers within reaching distance of a waste receptacle.

The clutter of papers is all so innocent. It's left around picnic tables or under a park bench and the people who finally pick it up are paid employees of a conservation authority or park board. It's almost as if the general population had launched some great make-work-project.

Along the highways in the province this year it will cost nearly \$1,000,000 just to keep the litter picked up. Imagine what that \$1,000,000, spent on tree planting or the removal of dead elm trees would contribute. Or imagine how much lighter the tax burden might have been if that \$1,000,000 coupled with all the other anti-litter projects across the province, had been unnecessary.

Centennial Park in Milton has won raves from citizens and visitors. It is attractive and conveniently located. But it's astonishing how much litter has to be picked up in that area despite the presence of two rather large waste receptacles.

Last week a board on the seat of

one of the cement-ended benches purchased last year, was broken. Another of the benches, worth about \$50 of taxpayers' money, has had the first carving inflicted on it. Another of the board's has also been the target of some waste-oriented individual with a sharp knife.

It's so easy to say the police should enforce the law. But it's much more practical for all of us to stand between the kind of waste and vandalism being seen in parks and conservation areas. Even alerting the police to the action, the individual citizen could play an important role in reducing the colossal waste that is a drain on the development and improvement of other green areas and parks.

Last year 353 persons were convicted of littering the highways in Ontario. In addition many were stopped by the police and warned about the fine for littering. When one considers the miles of highways and the acres of parks the number seems small. Perhaps the total number of offenders is small but we all suffer.

Nothing is more unappealing than a messy picnic area, or a littered park. Until we all accept the challenge to reduce this fantastic waste that goes on in almost every community or roadside, we will be paying a high price and failing to set a wise example.

It's about time we all got into the anti-litter battle by notifying police of vandalism or offering a quiet suggestion to offenders who are littering streets and public areas.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

"Bar the door, Matilda, and close them shutters! Henry, look to your flintlock! The Injuns are on the war-path!"

Let's hope it doesn't come to that, but the Indians of Canada, a quarter-million of the natives of this vast continent have blood in their eye, whether it's a product of politics or bean wine.

And they don't need tomahawks, bows and arrows, and rusty muskets this time. They have two weapons which bring them right into the nuclear age. One is the white man's guilt complex, with which they belabor him at every opportunity. The other is the mass media, which they are using with a skill that would make a public relations man turn green.

There are some facts that have led up to the current confrontation. First of all, the Indians were victims of one of the greatest con jobs in history when the various treaties were drawn up.

Have you ever read one? They sound great, full of poetic stuff like, "As long as the rivers run to the sea and the grass grows to the sky and the mountains do not fall down . . . etc., etc." Then comes the crunch, in the small print. As long as the Indian stays on his reserve, and out of the white man's hair (especially the scalp), he and his children and his children's children shall receive an annual bounty from the Great White Queen across the Big Water.

For a whole Indian band, it might be 1,000 pounds sterling. Not cash annually, but only the interest thereon. Figure out sometime what the interest is on 1,000 pounds sterling in 1969. Yes, inflation has caught up with the Indian, too.

Treaty Day, according to old-timers, used to be a real fair at the reserves. Each Indian family received its share of the loot and avaricious merchants gathered from miles around to separate the Indian and his treaty money as quickly as possible. Today, he might be able to buy a few bottles of wine.

Second, the Indian culture, or what's left of it, is quite dissimilar to that of the White man's. It is based on communal, rather than cut-throat society. The

romantic refers back to the "noble red man". The pragmatist calls him "a shiftless bum". Neither is anywhere near the truth. He is a human being. He's neither red nor any more noble than the rest of us.

Third, the paradox exists that the Indian has special privileges (medical care, free education, no taxes on the reserve, etc.) and yet he is underprivileged (inferior housing and education, plus plain old discrimination, social and economic.)

And now, the Federal government, with a cold logic that seems to seep down from Mr. Trudeau, says, "Put up or shut up. If you aren't happy about the way we run things, do it yourself." This, after years of treating reserves with all the largesse and benevolence usually associated with an orphanage.

The Federal government proposes to dump the Indian problems on the provincial governments and the Indians themselves, all in the course of five years, then fold its tent and steal off into the night. The provincial governments want the Indian problem like they want the Black Plague. So do the Indians.

For the latter, the Canadian government's new policy is a smoke-screen to cover failure. For the young Indians, dissolution of the reserves is like burning your boats behind you. For the middle-aged and elderly, it is terrifying.

Indian leader Wilmer Nadijwon of Cape Croker put it succinctly, if over-simplly, when he said the new legislation would allow an Indian to sell his property for two bottles of wine. That doesn't solve a problem. It creates one.

The Indians don't want assimilation. They want help to get on their feet and some redress for 200 years of being considered second-class Canadians.

Some reserves are worthless, mere slum areas. Some are extremely valuable as potential resort areas. How does everybody get a fair share if these lands are handed back to the Indians themselves, for disposal as they see fit?

You're not going to settle that one in five years, Pierre Elliott.



Pages of the Past

from champion files

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, July 21, 1949.

Milton's County Council representatives Reeve Higgins and Deputy-Reeve Dick discussed with council Tuesday, the proposed division of the Peel-Halton Home for the Aged. Milton Council expressed concurrence with the proposal to build a separate home here for this county.

By a vote of 13 to three, Halton County Council has decided to build a home for the aged in Halton rather than participate in any more expenditure on the home now owned jointly by the counties of Peel and Halton. A building committee named to deal with sites and plans are Messrs. Armstrong, Van Sickle, Wickham and Dick. Peel has proposed spending \$168,000 on the Brampton home. The two counties have had an amicable agreement for 40 years.

A newly constructed platform in front of Brookville Hall is just one of the many preparations that are being made for the Nassagaweya Centennial. The big three day event starts Friday evening with a dance.

Monday's rain was another good soaker and helped some of the later crops and raspberries.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, July 24, 1919.

Sometime after midnight on Tuesday of last week some daring person or persons, after trying various windows on the ground floor succeeded in forcing a window up in the second storey of the high school at Oakville, and securing an entrance. A door to the teachers' room was pried open and several bundles of examination papers were removed. The papers were to have been used in high school exams. One would naturally suppose the thief wanted to get acquainted with what was ahead of him, but the papers will do him no good, as they will be changed. The scholar, if such it was, will never succeed in the world if he adopts such tactics. A case similar to this occurred a day or two earlier at Calgary.

LOST—On Main Street, Milton, on Saturday night, 19th inst., a lady's two-pronged tortoise shell hair comb, studded with brilliants. Reward for same at The Champion office.

The Oakville Star says Rev. T. M. Jefferis of Oakville is the oldest Orangeman in Canada by a number of years. He is in his 98th year, came to Canada in 1845 and became an Orangeman 69 years ago. He is the oldest Methodist Minister in Canada.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, August 19, 1869.

A correspondent informs us that Charles Peer of Lowville has taken from nine acres, 5,500 sheaves of wheat.

Some mischievously inclined individual last Tuesday night abstracted a plank from the second bridge on the new road from Milton to the Third Line, Trafalgar.

The London Advertiser says "The Milton Champion is quite lively under the new management." Thanks, friend Advertiser, we will try to keep it so. One other contemporary, The Guelph Evening Mercury, does not very strictly observe the eighth commandment, for in the local columns of its issue of the 14th inst., are four items taken verbatim from The Champion, for only three of which credit given. Now, brother Mercury, play fair.

On the farm of James S. Preston, near Hornby, an oat stalk was cut—not pulled—measuring upwards of six feet. But this was not the only peculiarity. On manipulating the stem, a junior head burst forth which, although not developed, measured 10 inches. Can any of our contemporaries produce a similar exuberance of oat vegetation, or will they tacitly yield the palm to Halton?

A harvest home picnic will be held in the pine grove, Kilbride, only three minutes' walk from the Fountain Hotel, on Thursday next. The "old bones band" will be present to delight the festive gathering, and a flooring has been laid for those desirous of tripping the "light fantastic."

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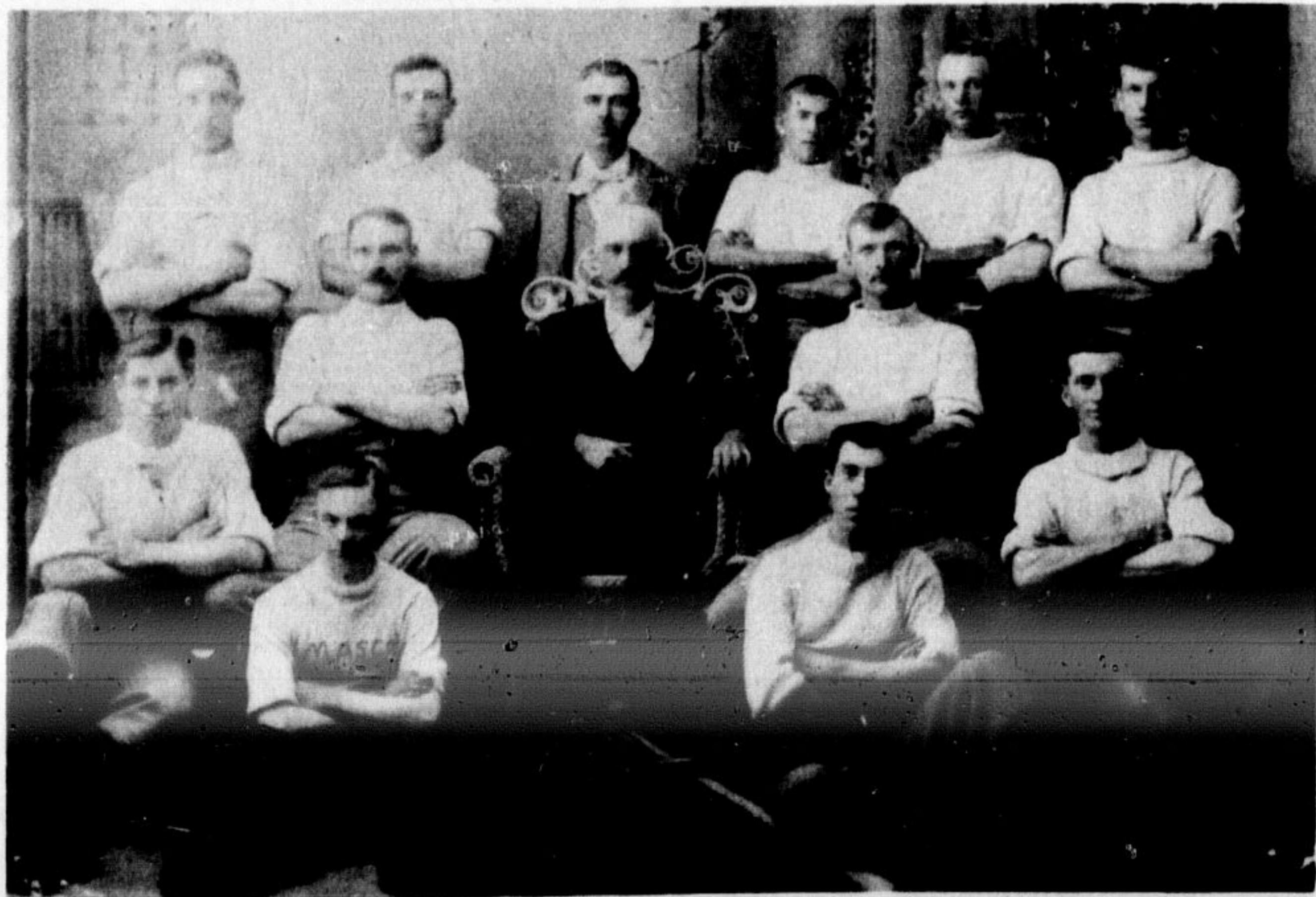
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PEEKING INTO MILTON'S PAST



MILTON BALL TEAM OF 1896 is reproduced from an early snapshot loaned by a reader. Can you identify them? Champion files of that year indicate S. Brush was the team's stand-out pitcher, and others on the club were E. Hartley

shortstop, Tuck, W. Blacklock, Peacock catcher, Mitchell fielder, C. Johnson fielder, Elliott second base, Cooper fielder, J. R. Johnson first base, P. Johnson shortstop, Patterson third base, Jarvis third base, Little, Mitchell and Wilson.