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Jim's Jottings

by jim dills

* Made the annual pilgrimage to the great old CNE on the weekend and found things much changed. Frankly I was impressed with the many changes and how they seem to have contributed to the enjoyment of the show while reducing the congestion. It really wasn't bad considering I found 263,000 were there at the same time and travelling as a family usually magnifies the number.

* Mind you, pushing a stroller through the food building is still something like driving a bulldozer through rows of tender trees, but the aromas from the various booths are still tempting, even though free samples are almost non-existent.

* It's those beautiful fountains that get you, spraying out their sparkling streams of water. It's enough to make anyone thirsty in 80 degree temperatures and bright sun. But don't look too hard to find a drinking fountain. There just aren't any conveniently located along the walls of the buildings. But those soft drink dispensers are certainly convenient.

* There seemed to be more action around the grounds. A display here and there. Perhaps some wrestling or Korean Karate demonstrations and even kite flying. Oasis of interest that one stumbles on to relieve what used to be too much monotony.

* For a real change of pace visit the Ontario government building. They've got a train there to give you a ride around the two floors of the building through sound and picture segments. Don't let the length of the line-up deceive you. It moves quickly. Many of the other buildings are changed. The automotive show is in the

Queen Elizabeth building and a "mind-stretching" Galaxy is in the Automotive building for an example.

* The grounds are cleaner too.

* My Ex days include those snail's pace crawls through Sunnyside after leaving the show while traffic crept out of the city. Not so now. Traffic flows smoothly along the Gardiner and Queen E., making the trip home comparable to any other from the city.

* We chose the Armed Forces program in front of the CNE grandstand and I don't know when I've enjoyed a program as much. Beautiful evening, pleasant breeze despite 87 degree temperature and a fabulously balanced musical program. It featured the stirring pipes and drums, the flashy trumpets and the versatile military bands of the reserve units including the Lorne Scots from this area.

* Toss in the famous Green Howards, visiting from England, and you've got what added up to a thrilling spectacle.

* From a stirring beginning through popular renditions of Sound of Music, Oliver, and Colonel Bogey, the bands thrilled a large Sunday night audience. And just to wind it up they played the 1812 Overture with \$500 of fireworks sounding the canons that are part of the finale to the piece.

* It was a spectacle exceptionally well done and stirring in its presentation of the anthems and the concluding Taps. The standing ovation the crowd gave was well-deserved.



THE CENOTAPH'S WARRIOR looks down on Victoria Park, which is a cool spot for a warm summer's day.

Champion Editorial Page

Visitors welcome . . .

Welcome to the visitors who will come to Milton this weekend, many of them for the first time and many on an annual pilgrimage, for the ninth annual Steam-Era.

It hardly seems possible that the show next year will have spanned its first decade.

The crowds have grown over the years since the first show in 1961 that drew 8,000 spectators and was termed a "wonderful success". Crowds as high as 30,000 have been drawn to the display of steam and early engines and cars in the succeeding years.

The 200 members of the Steam and Antique Preservers' Association come from most parts of Ontario and the northern United States. Their interest in steam is as a hobby and the restoration work they

perform on some of the early engines is startling.

After eight shows in Milton the display doesn't have the same impact on local residents as it does on visitors but from the arrival of the first iron giants, as they are trucked in for the show, a renewed air of expectancy stirs in the air and the townspeople prepare for an influx of visitors.

Those in close proximity to the Agricultural Grounds will find the whistles and smoke an irritation but they've been very understanding over the years and the steam enthusiasts have done their part in keeping aggravations to a minimum.

The visitors who ask directions, will we hope, receive polite answers and helpful treatment as they visit Milton. We hope they'll find the town the pleasant spot we think it is.

Shades of past . . .

The band concert in Victoria Park on Thursday was a pleasant reminder of earlier days when concerts in the park were more frequent.

Those were in the days when Milton had its own band and the bandstand must have been a mecca for the Sunday evening events. We're hopeful the instrumental music

program being introduced at the high school this year will provide a re-birth of interest in bands and band concerts. Certainly it will take time but we look forward to when Milton High School Band may also be making appearance locally.

In the meantime the Thursday concert presented by the capable Lorne Scots Band was an enjoyable event.

Planning for emergencies . . .

When you follow the area fire brigade around for a few days you appreciate the kind of service members are called on to provide when every call is an emergency.

We've said before how effective the service rendered is but one small instance recently emphasized to us the kind of pre-planning that takes place to maintain such an efficient service.

There was a truck fire in the eastbound lane of Highway 401, west of Milton. One truck took the 401 from Highway 25 while the other went to Campbellville to get on Highway 401 from the other direction and in the eastbound lane.

The first truck at the fire applied water, but it had to obstruct traffic on the highway. Minutes later the truck in the eastbound lane arrived and the westbound truck was able to remove its lines and permit the free

flow of traffic in both lanes while the fire fighting was taken up by the truck in the eastbound side of the road.

It all looked so simple and so logical it was easy to understand it happening. But before it happened someone anticipated the problems of blocking traffic on Highway 401 with the resulting snarl. The traffic was permitted maximum freedom of movement while an emergency was competently handled.

The work of the fire brigade is most appreciated when you call it for your own protection, but every week the service is on the alert to protect people and property. Their equipment is good and their efficient planning obviously adds to its value.

We think the members deserve the odd tip of the hat for their conduct and efficiency. Maybe you think so too, and will tell a member so the next time you see him.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

It's been a rough summer for a lot of people, including yours truly. There's nothing like getting home, exhausted, after a trip and finding (a) that your wife has lost the house key and you have to break in through a cellar window, and (b) that an oak limb 40 feet long and ten inches thick has fallen across your hydro lines during a storm.

However, these are minor things. I got into the house with no more than a scraped knee and a bad temper, and a good neighbor had climbed up and sawn the limb in two, allowing half of it to crash down on my fence.

But this is a mere bagatelle compared to what others have gone through. Teachers are supposed to recharge their batteries during the summer vacation, and hit school in September tanned, fit and bursting with idealism.

We'll be lucky to open this fall, the way our staff is folding up. A hernia and a heart attack, a total collapse from exhaustion, various slipped discs and other ailments have decimated the ranks. All I have is a touch of heartburn, and I attribute that to a couple of days of Bloody Marys for breakfast, served by friends we were visiting.

It's been a bad summer for a lot of parents. First, two kids I met on a visit to the old home town, told me nonchalantly that they'd flunked their first year at College. Their parents weren't quite so nonchalant. Apoplectic is the word.

Same day I met an old friend who was at his cottage. They'd left one son at home, working. The night before, my friend had received a call from the police in his home town. They had raided a big teen-age party. At his place.

A friend of my daughter, a pretty, blonde 17-year-old, had a stroke and her right side is paralyzed. No need to ask how her family feels.

A distraught mother told me three weeks ago that her 14-year-old daughter had disappeared, run off with another kid. She phoned, collect, this week from Vancouver. Alive, but who knows what she's been doing? The lady is a good

mother, in every way. Has two daughters, one a fine, steady girl, the other a young rip. Why?

And everywhere you see them on the highways, dirty, bearded, long-haired. Hitchhiking from nowhere to nowhere.

Some of them cluster in "communes" in the big cities. A commune is usually a falling-down house in a slum area. It has a kitchen of sorts, a toilet that works occasionally, and the rest of the floor space is covered by mattresses and sleeping-bags.

Theoretically, everyone contributes for food, rent and chores. In reality, there are usually two or three working and the rest just drift in and out like alley cats. This produces personality clashes and hassles and a very unhealthy psychological atmosphere. Add drugs to this boar's nest and you have some pretty sick young people.

They claim they're opting out of a sick society. Work is a dirty word. They are meditating, seeking a higher spiritual life. There's a lot of talk about vibrations and Buddha and pure love for everyone. All this in a pig-pen?

The young people are rather pathetic but I grieve more for their parents, who simply don't know how to cope with a way of thinking and living so alien to their own. They are loving, frustrated and helpless.

And I save a little pity for myself. Got a letter from my daughter, from Montreal, telling me cheerfully that she had one cent. Wired her some money yesterday. Got a collect call this morning, saying she couldn't cash it because she had no proof of identity. Phoned the Montreal telegraph office, told them it was OK to cash it. No can do. Confirmation had to come from our local wire office. Called them, got off a wire and presumably she cashed in, as she hasn't called back yet.

So, the original bite, plus two wires, plus two long-distance calls to Montreal. Should all kids, at birth be placed out on a lonely hillside for the shepherds to adopt? We might be flooded with shepherd's pie, but it would certainly make life a lot simpler.



Pages of the Past

from champion files

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, August 25, 1949.

Unusual and attractive performances were presented to the citizens of Milton and district last Sunday evening. The two, an open air band concert by the Lorne Scots Regimental Band at Victoria Park and a display of fancy figure skating was presented at Milton Arena by students enrolled at the Milton Summer School of Skating.

Both presentations drew capacity crowds from most parts of the county. It was estimated about one thousand people attended both attractions.

On Friday afternoon at about two o'clock, Mr. Bob Anderson sighting smoke from the Porty farm turned in a fire alarm that took crowds of people, the firemen and truck to one of Acton and vicinity's largest fires.

Fire of unknown origin totally destroyed a large barn owned by G. A. France of Toledo, Ohio, situated at Esquesing's first line under the mountain early Tuesday morning.

Free text books will be supplied to pupils attending Milton Public Schools, officials of the board have announced.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, August 28, 1919.

The person who took the flower, in a pot, from Mrs. Gorham's veranda last Saturday or Sunday, is requested to put it back at once.

Repeal of the daylight saving law has been carried out in the United States over the president's veto. Standard time will be renewed on October first, permanently, it is expected. On account of the railway timetables, Canada may be expected to drop daylight saving time too.

Yesterday evening some of our townsmen, coached by several experts, had a game of golf at the fair grounds. The formation of a club, with six-hole links, is proposed.

To the editor—Several gardeners from the Burlington district brought huge loads of A-1 tomatoes here this week and sold them at 40 cents per 11 quart basket—35 cents lower than the people of Milton had

to pay a few days before. This is a sample of the high cost of living.

Acton ballplayers won the Glen Challenge Cup by defeating Georgetown and Glen Williams 6-2 on the 16th inst.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, August 26, 1869.

We beg this week to announce to our readers a change in the proprietorship of The Champion, it having been purchased by J. D. Matheson who has for some time past acted as its editor. As this change will make no difference in the editorial management of the paper, we merely state that there will be no change in the political views of The Champion. As in the past, so in the future, this paper will always be found to be strongly opposing, and vigorously and firmly denouncing abuses and corruption wherever they may be found. It will also advocate all necessary reforms and improvements in matters.

We have seen some hops grown by Samuel McNaughton, Esquering, fully three inches long. The crop, we believe, promises to turn out well.

As none of the Milton churches has a bell, the town bell will be rung every Sunday for divine worship at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. This will be a great convenience to churchgoers.

Wanted—a clerk for a country store. Apply personally to A. B. Culloden, Lowville.

The former Bronte Paper Mill property will be sold at public auction on Wednesday, September 15 at noon.

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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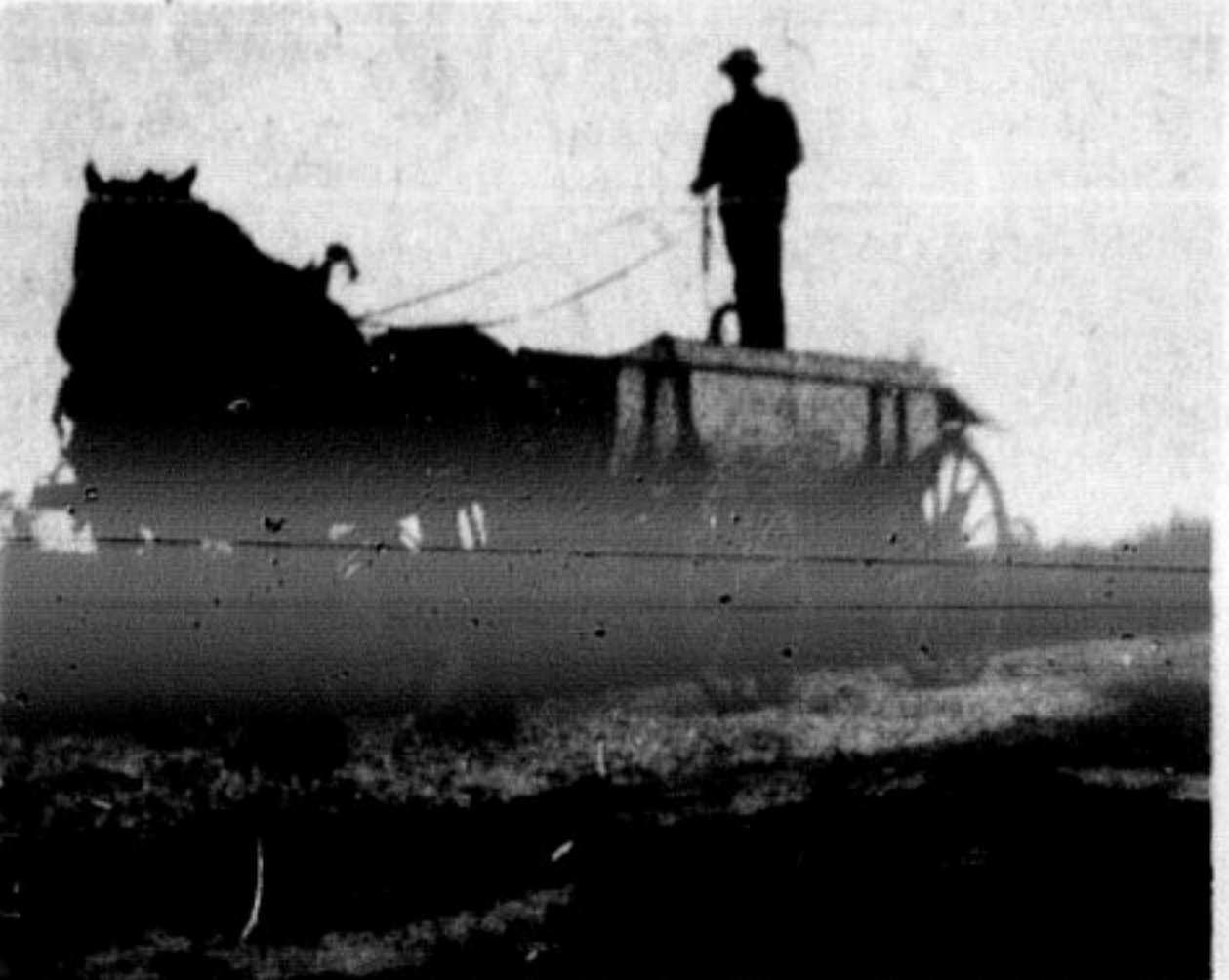
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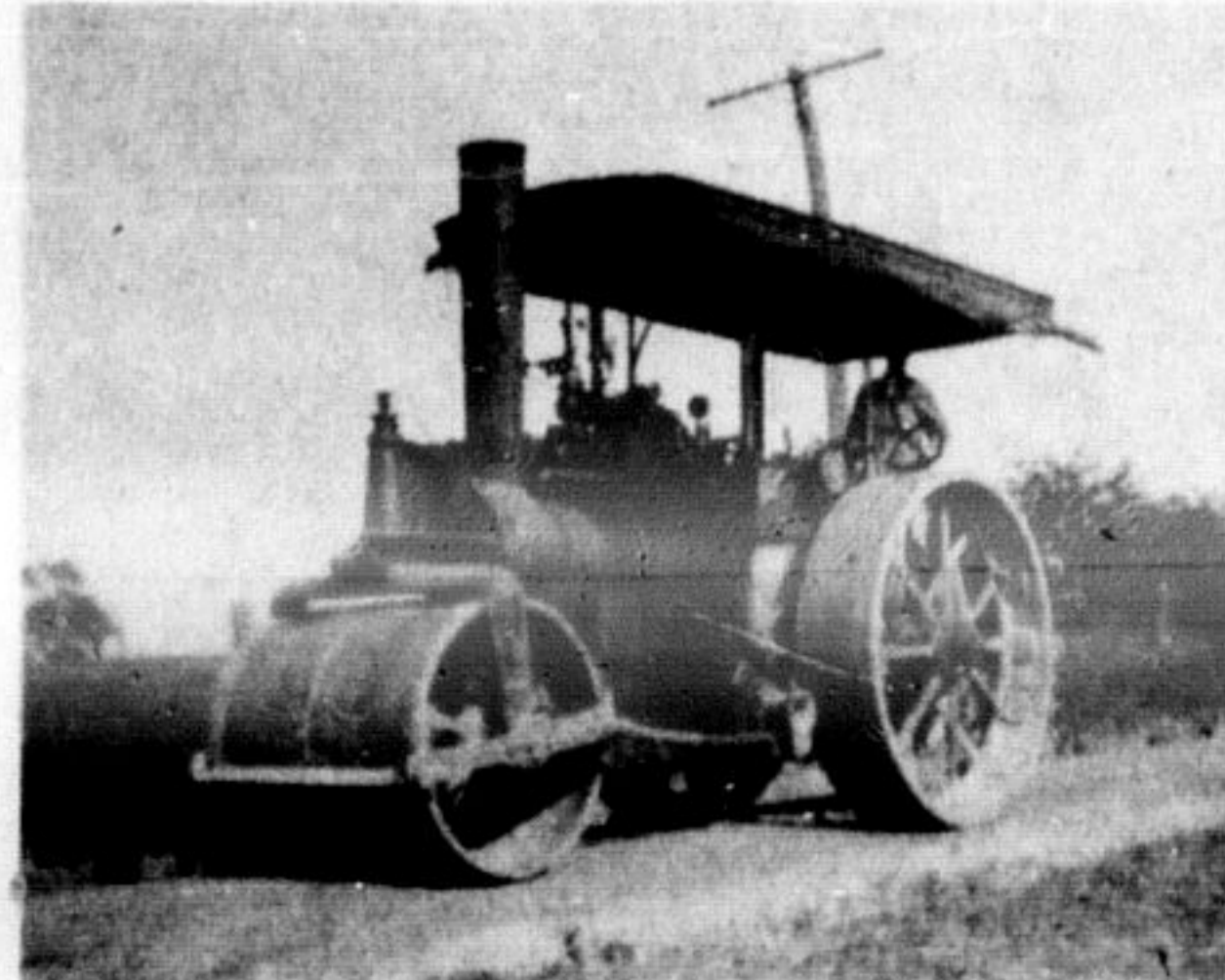
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PEEKING INTO MILTON'S PAST



BUILDING BRONTE ST. was occupying this road equipment in 1913. A mud road previously, the street was being topped with stone from the mountain quarry and from that cracked at the jail. In the left photo W. H. Devlin was operating the water wagon while in the right photo



Howard Robinson operated the Sawyer-Massey steam roller, fired by coal. The town was bearing the cost of the project from Main St. to Barton and the county the balance to 10 sideroad. The picture was taken and developed by Ken McDougall.