

Jim's Jottings

by jim dills

* The Halton Board of Education has elected a new chairman for 1970 and Doug Wood acknowledges he'll have a big job ahead to fill Fred Armitage's shoes. I haven't missed many of the Board meetings and I have been impressed at the way those meetings operated under the direction of the chairman. Fred Armitage was a worthy choice as the Board's first top member and the standards he set in the conduct of the meeting and board business set a sound basis for future years. As a matter of fact he ranks as one of the consistently best chairmen of any group I've ever covered.

* Burning the Christmas trees turned out to be quite an attraction again this year as hundreds turned out for the family event despite a chilling wind that made the warmth of the fire pretty attractive. The trees make an impressive blaze and perhaps it's the "little boy" in all of us that likes to see such a big bonfire. In a safe setting it's a good idea.

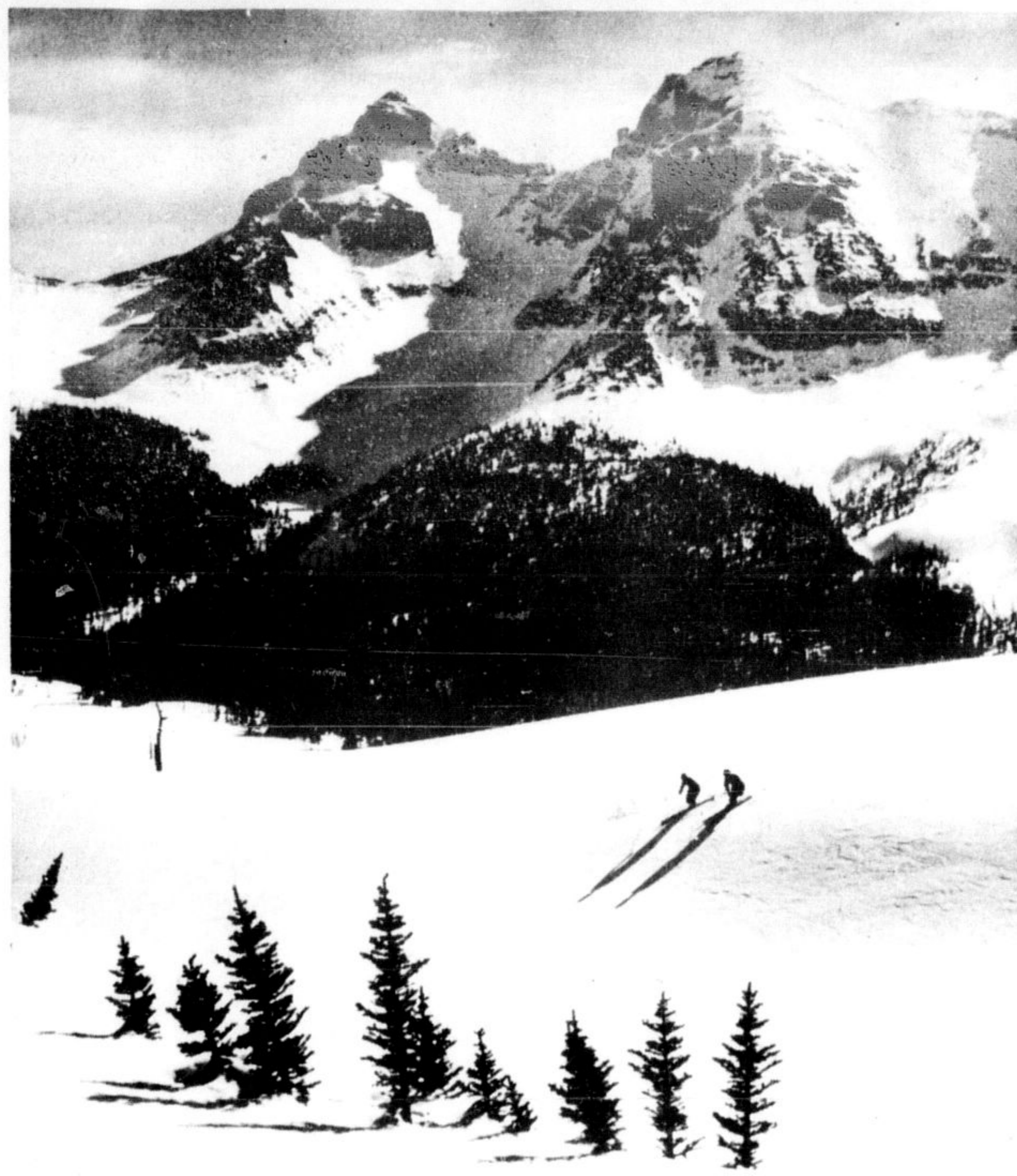
* Milton Council had its inaugural meeting last week and launched the new term-year year. It was one of the slowest meetings I've been at for a long time. Undoubtedly it was the problem of a new group, put together for the first time, feeling its way. But it was difficult for the chairman to evoke a response on a piece of correspondence that should obviously be filed. As the year wears on the pace will speed up and members will become more efficient in their handling of what will certainly be heavy agendas. The role of "homework" will never be more important than to a municipal councillor this year if

he plans to keep abreast of actions and proposals while moving ahead.

* Religious education in the schools can be a controversial subject at some periods in history but now, as the Board of Education is considering the Mackay Report on the subject, few groups appear interested in presenting briefs. Board members were told Thursday that two briefs had been received by the special committee and it was understood some others were in preparation. Hopefully the committee will be able to shed some light on the subject when it reports later this year but interest right now is not too significant, I would gather.

* You've heard all about those walkathons but just how far do you think you walk in a lifetime without that kind of experience? A bulletin from the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs says the average person walks 250,000 miles in a lifetime. The bulletin continues to use this as a good reason for choosing the right kind of shoes.

* I find it hard to work up much support for a subsidy for public transportation in and out of Milton. A bus service has been operating to the GO Transit and it's been wonderful for the one passenger. Perhaps the schedule is not the most desirable. I don't know, and I don't know how one could be developed that would serve everyone unless it were on an hourly basis. Frankly I don't think the problem is all it's set out to be and I suggest the municipality concern itself with more serious problems.



SKIING PARADISE—Slopes near Mount Temple will provide winter vacationers at Banff Springs Hotel with reliable ski conditions from early December through the popular spring skiing weeks of April. The world-famous hotel, located 75 miles west of Calgary in the Canadian Rockies, is now open year-round. Three ski areas within easy driving distance of the hotel boast a variety of hills to challenge everyone from the novice to the most expert skier.

Champion Editorial Page

Nobody likes them...

Rate increases are no more palatable whether they be for hydro, municipal taxes, school levies or groceries but they are a fact of our times and we are inclined to be conditioned to them.

The announcement that Milton Hydro plans a rate increase of approximately \$1 a month for the average homeowner, is based on the increasing cost of producing and transmitting power as well as on the costs of local operations. There's really nothing new or surprising about it.

The interesting thing about the change, though, which will tend to be overlooked by many, is that the rate is actually back to about the 1958 level. In between there were a couple of reductions. That of course doesn't mean that your 1958 bill and your 1970 bill may correspond exactly but if an inventory of demands in your home for electricity was identical to that in 1958 the bill could correspond.

Very simply the rate is the same but if you're like most people your demand has increased.

We'd heard about massive surpluses in the hydro accounts and questioned why these wouldn't be used to reduce the rates. The answer we got was that there was no such massive surplus. There had been but it was accumulated to buy the hydro facilities from Ontario Rural Hydro

and Oakville that served the newly annexed area. The result of a dragged-out annexation allowed the surplus to accumulate. In the end it is expected the purchase of the facilities, about \$80,000 will not have to be debentured. That represents a saving to the consumer in interest charges at a time when the debenture market isn't really that good.

While no one wants to see increases in rates it is a difficult thing to buck in this kind of an economy. Indeed a refusal to increase rates can be as irresponsible as unrealistic increases. The Milton Hydro Commission is directly responsible to the electorate and voters have the opportunity to elect two commissioners each year. They are charged with the responsibility of operating a sound business just as council must keep the town solvent.

The maintenance of a sound operation, locally and provincially, is what will keep the energy in those lines that perform so many industrial and household functions.

A display at the Ontario Science Centre stuck in my mind. It pointed out that a housewife would need 300 servants to perform the equivalent amount of work to that performed by electricity in the household. At our place there just isn't room for all those folks.

Edmonton-Esqueing contrasts...

The proposal for a major auto racing track in Esqueing has drawn heated protests and strong supporters. There still seems to be little real solid fact in the situation for a reasoned opinion. That's why The Champion telephoned Edmonton Mayor Dr. Ivor Dent for comments on the effect of an international speedway on the doorstep of that city.

As can be expected the situations in Edmonton and in Esqueing are not parallel although there are similarities. The Edmonton Mayor's suggestion that such a track be located two miles from a built-up area is something which can be considered in the local situation. There is no such buffer available now and plans for the residential development south of the Base Line and east of the Third Line in Milton would place a built-up area within a highway's width of the proposed track.

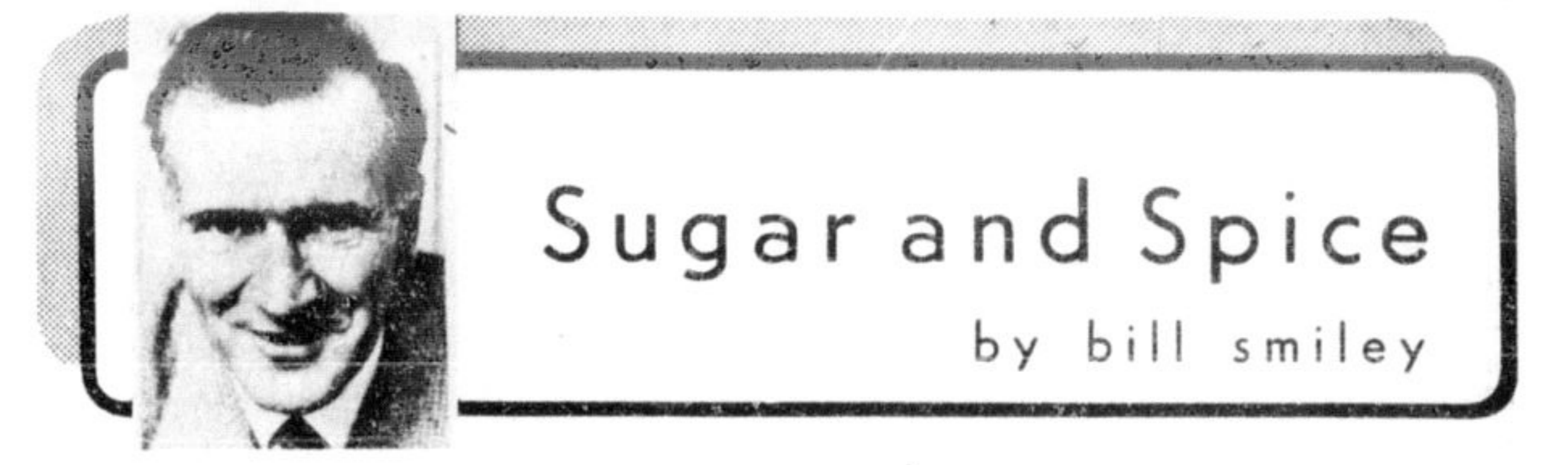
One significant difference in the Edmonton and Esqueing situation is that the track in Edmonton existed as a stock car track before development moved towards it. Developers or purchasers were hardly in a position to object as they moved toward the existing facility. Here the development on the south side of the

401 was planned in advance of the announcement of the track and the existing residents in the track area were established too. In addition the effect will be felt further north on the township roads and affect many more than merely those whose property actually touches the track property.

Edmonton also is fortunate in having two major roads to handle the traffic, the Mayor pointed out. Needless to say this aspect alone would require some detailed statistics to determine the problems of traffic flow in the Esqueing-Milton area.

There would be some contrasts too in the tourist dollars left behind in Milton and those Edmonton might garner. With accommodation of the motel variety as limited as it is in this area there is little chance those attending the races would be around very long after or before the event. In Edmonton's case this is vastly different where the city provides an excellent array of accommodation.

Despite the contrasts in the Edmonton-Esqueing settings the Edmonton Mayor speaks for a buffer of distance, to muffle the noise. In the site proposed in Esqueing this is hardly possible.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Have you had a party lately? If you haven't, don't. It will murder you, physically and financially.

We hadn't had a big bash for several years, and decided it was time. We went carefully over our list of friends, neighbors and people-we-owe, and came up with 68 names. We cut it ruthlessly to 20. And we wound up with 31.

The main point, when you're giving a party, is to be prepared. Leave nothing to the last minute. Check the little things.

Have you enough wood for your fireplace? I discovered I had two chunks, but with old fruit baskets, cardboard boxes, and the bottom step of the cellar stairs, managed quite nicely.

Be sure your wiring works. The switch for our bathroom light hadn't worked for four days, and I couldn't get an electrician because they were all in Florida or somewhere. But we installed candles, and some of the ladies who used the facilities came down glowing. They hadn't looked so glamorous in years.

Have a last-minute look at your sidewalks. They might seem all right to you, but not all people are mountain goats. I checked mine about half an hour before the party. Back walk was fine, if one had snowshoes. Shovelled it out. Front walk was fine too. Except for a four-foot bank of solid ice and snow between the street and our sidewalk, a gift from the town snowplow.

I went at it like a man looking for a heart attack, and almost hoping I'd have one, so the damn party would be cancelled. I could feel my fresh deodorant going up in smoke, the sweat running down my nose, and the old ticker running like a snowmobile. Finished, feeling as though I'd run the Boston Marathon, just as the first guests arrived.

But those are merely the little incidentals that go with having a party. It took four weeks of planning and three solid days of domestic labor, plus so much money tears as big as tea bags come to my eyes every time I think of it.

A week later, the house still reeks of garlic, and we're nibbling with total uninterest at left-over casseroles of some exotic dish called something like Marmosette.

The guests, their palates deadened by a Mafia combination of Martini and Rossi, seemed to like it. Perhaps you'd like the recipe, if you're dense enough to have a party.

First, you must catch the marmots. This is your problem. Put them through a meatgrinder, gently. Simmer with onions, celery and the insole of an ancient ski boot. Drench the mess with garlic, oregano, chili powder, tabasco sauce and anything else you find on your shelves. Place in casseroles and heat through. Serve promptly, when the guests have been into the Mafia long enough. Oh, I forgot the cheese. Grate about eight pounds of cheese and sprinkle it over the casseroles.

And one more thing. Be sure you have enough. We had enough. For sixty.

These are just the basic ingredients for a party, of course. Add one wife who hasn't slept for three nights because one daughter has decided that university is for morons, and you get the real flavor.

Then pour in thirty-odd people, the odder the better, who have apparently just crossed the Sahara without water-bottles, and stir.

You've got a party. And you can have it.

Then, or course, there's the garbage. You'd have thought we were running a hotel if you'd seen me trucking it out afterwards.

Not that it wasn't a swinger. The Christmas tree almost fell into the party, and my wife almost fell into the oven. But we sang carols off and on, mostly off, and everyone had a roaring good time, or so they roared as they were leaving.

And you are all invited to our next party. In 1984.



Down[s] in this Corner

with roy downs

Next time Santa Claus brings our girls a Christmas present, I sincerely hope he can spare the time to put the present together before he drops it under our tilting Christmas tree and flies off up the chimney again.

I've no complaints about the gent in the red suit loading our kids up with toys and things at Christmas, but as a do-it-yourself project dropout, I'm a little rankled about these toys that have to be assembled before the youngsters get a chance to bust them up.

Most of the loot that arrived under our tippy tree this year was ready-built, raring-to-go stuff. But father had a few choice cuses to utter and a few bruised, black and blue fingers to show for his trouble before the gals got to use their new blackboard.

Did I say blackboard? No, it was more than a blackboard, it was a magnetized play board on one side, completed with dozens of little magnetized letters and numbers that clung to it, with a regulation blackboard and chalk on the back side. Looked like a wonderful thing for a couple of little girls just learning to spell and count, but I never expected to have to build the thing from scratch. For \$10 plus, you'd think the manufacturer or Santa Claus would at least put the blessed thing together before they go stuffing it under the tree.

This monstrosity had legs and feet, you see, upon which the blackboards were to be supported. The slim box opened up to reveal a myriad selection of legs, feet,

knobs, screws, nuts, bolts, supporting wires, and a complete sheet of gobbledygook printed in English, French and ... you guessed it ... Japanese.

After reading the English version of what the manufacturer laughingly called "simple instructions for assembly" I gave up and tried the French version. It wasn't any easier in French. I could translate most of the queer looking words into my mother tongue but I had forgotten one thing.

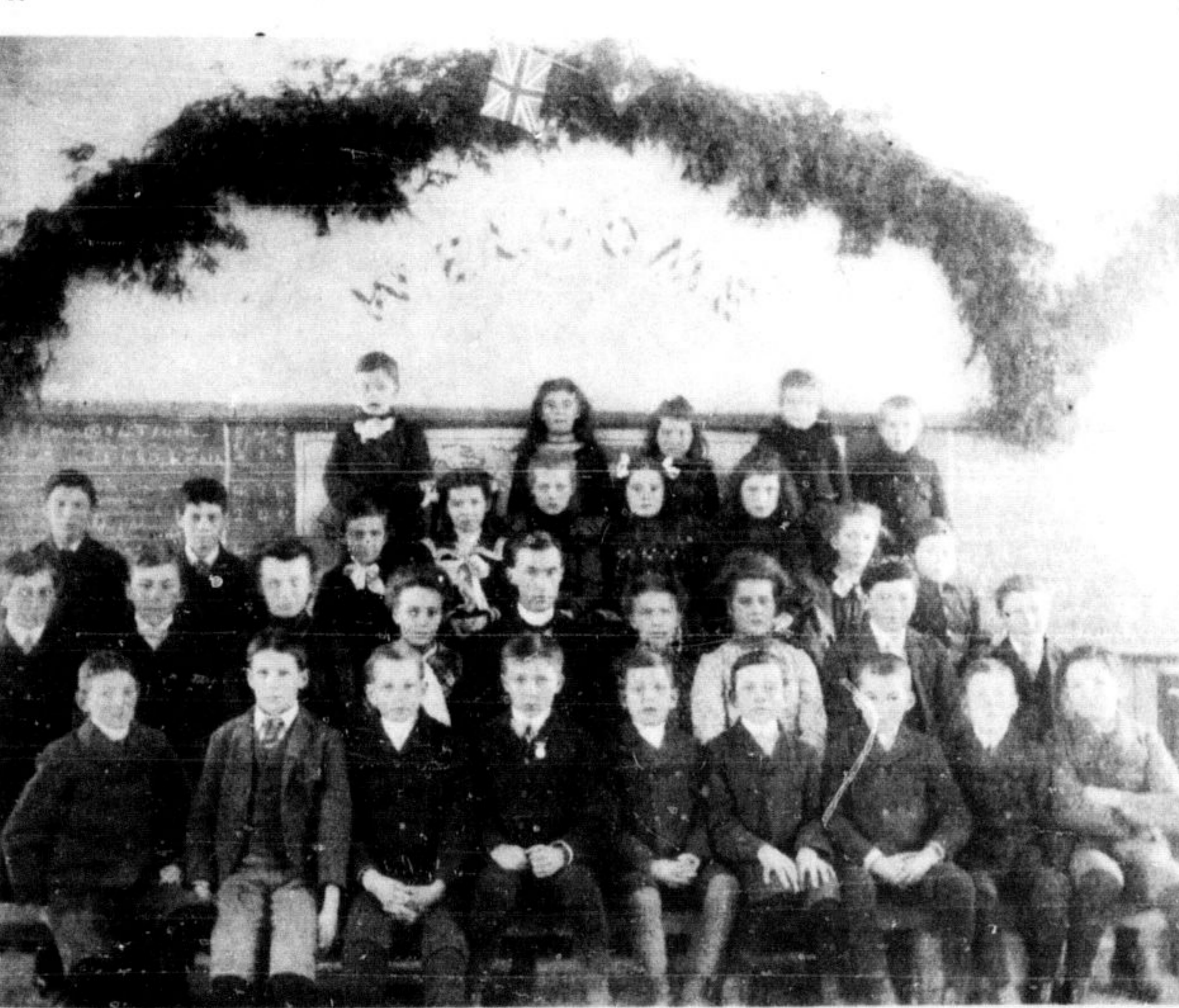
Now is "gauche" the right? Or is it "droit"? I was stymied around the third or fourth line of the lengthy list of "simple" instructions so I went back to the English version.

There was a picture with the instruction, showing what the thing was eventually supposed to look like. Neat little arrows had been drawn across the face of it, indicating leg "C" and bracket "J" and nut "GG" and support "L" and clamp "EE" and so on, but the picture didn't help too much. I'm a real hotshot on reading blueprints but the picture of the blackboard I was allegedly attempting to assemble had me buffaloed.

Laying all the parts out on the kitchen, dining room and living room floors, I found enough left over to fill half the downstairs hall. Then I resorted them to get all the pieces that looked similar to other pieces together in the one room. With the wife doing the running for pieces and the kids crying "Daddy when's our new blackboard

(Continued on Page B6)

PEEKING INTO MILTON'S PAST



BELL'S SCHOOL Christmas Concert 1902 included the following: front row, Edgar Wheeler, Nelson Newell, W. R. Hume, unknown, George Hume, John Shields, William Scott, Harvey Agnew, ? Wheeler; second row, W. Agnew, J. Agnew, Tilly Hartley, Mabel Hume, W. J. McMillan teacher, Jessie Hartley, Maude Jardine,

Nelson Shuert and Joe Dice; third row, D. Hartley, Amos Newell, unknown, Maude Hartley, Cora Hartley, ? Scott, Ada Dice, unknown, George Dice; rear row, Adolphus Cooper, Jenny Maude, Bessie Scott, unknown, Norman Agnew. Photo loaned by Miss M. Hume, Milton.

Pages of the Past

from champion files

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, January 12, 1950.

Charged with stealing a diamond ring valued at over \$200 from the home of an Oakville woman, a 27-year-old lady was remanded to Oakville magistrate's court when she appeared before Magistrate K. M. Langdon in Milton last week. An Acton man was sentenced to seven days in jail and had his driver's permit suspended for a period of six months when he pleaded guilty to a charge of driving while intoxicated.

The well known Jersey herd of Maurice C. Beaty at Milton has completed several more outstanding records. Lindale Basil Lady, a junior four-year-old in 365 days has completed 11,016 lbs. of milk and 590 lbs. of fat with a test of 5.36 per cent.

The inaugural meeting of the Council of the Township of Nassagaweya was held Jan. 9. Members present were Reeve W. M. Van Sickle, Councillors George E. Stokes, J. E. Ellenton, R. M. Storey and J. S. Norrish. It was drawn to the attention of the Council that at the first meeting of the Council in the year 1925 Mr. J. W. Moffat was appointed Treasurer of the Township and has filled that position continuously since that date. Mr. Moffat was complimented on his wonderful record and expressed the pleasure it had given him to serve the municipality as treasurer.

Friday night's game with Weston Intermediates proved to be quite upsetting for the Weston outfit and some of the more pessimistic fans around town. Milton, playing their best hockey of the season handed the powerful visitors and group leaders a 5-3 defeat.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, January 15, 1920.

Brampton Intermediates were to have played an exhibition match with the locals at the rink on Tuesday evening but only two of the regular team with four juniors turned up. Milton's full team played and the game was too one sided to be interesting.

The first scheduled match, Milton vs. Burlington Intermediates, will come off at the rink next Tuesday evening and it is sure to be one of the fastest. Go and see it. The Gazette says Burlington fans may charter a special train, but they will turn out in force with or without it.

Remember the Apron Social in the

Methodist Sunday school on Friday evening. Admission, waist measure in cents.

The dance given at the Orange Hall, Hornby, by the Misses Harrop, Robinson and Bradley was a great success in every way. The ladies provided toothsome refreshments in abundance and the music of the Hornby Orchestra greatly pleased the dancers. Money made was turned over to the True Blue Orphanage.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, January 13, 1870.

Special elections were held in the East and South Wards, Milton, to fill the vacancies created by the retirement of Councillors Morse and Matheson. Dr. Robertson and Henry Watson, Esq., were returned by acclamation.

The new Baptist Church, Georgetown, is to be opened on the 30th with a tea on the following evening. Rev. Messrs. Stuart Fyle and Perrin will preach, and with other ministers be present at the tea. It is a very fine structure.

The Presbyterian Church (The Kirk) in Milton, which has been for a long time closed, is now re-opened, the Rev. George Macdonnell having been called to the charge of it. Services in the future will commence at 11 a.m. every Sunday.

Ogdensburg is now looked upon as the rallying point for the Fenian Circles. The rendezvous may be a good one but the attempt to invade will only rush any whispers of discontent in the Dominion.

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