



## Jim's Jottings

by jim dills

\* Those flowering shrubs that were planted along Martin St. some years ago are now at the stage where they can be appreciated. The blooms contribute to a town with a touch of beauty and it would be wonderful if we could see more such plantings in an age when cutting trees is more frequent than planting. Perhaps as new areas are developed and new streets cut through for subdivisions someone somewhere will think to make extensive plantings of trees and flowering shrubs that will enhance the beauty of the area.

\* I shudder to think of another postal strike. At this point of writing the future is a little uncertain. Cutting off the mail last time saw us resorting to a variety of methods to continue distribution of our Champion. Rural routes out of Milton were handled O.K. but we couldn't reach those from other municipalities where service was not maintained. On one occasion I delivered a rural route myself as an experiment but that's no long term answer. The strike had other effects for business too. While accounts couldn't be paid neither could they be received by mail. What that does to the money supply is shattering to comprehend.

\* Driving in the fog the other day I was surprised at the number of vehicles that zoomed at me out of a cloud with no headlights on. It takes a little thought perhaps but those headlights are a real defensive measure even if they don't help you see. Surprisingly enough there was the

odd truck with no lights and they're generally pretty good about turning them on.

\* It's great to see those letters to the editor coming in on local issues. While it's best to keep them brief we haven't yet had to start editing to condense them. The objective is to give people an opportunity to express an opinion uninhibited by our blue pencil. I've heard of newspapers that write their own letters to the editors to encourage a flow, and not too long ago. I can assure you we haven't resorted to that either.

\* The Dominion Day poll conducted last week seeking opinions on changing the name of the holiday and moving it to a permanent Monday holiday got one of our staff upset. The thought of changing the name and shifting it around in the week, supported by the majority of those questioned got her blood to the fever pitch as she denounced the lack of patriotism and loyalty and other things. But the majority certainly did indicate a change in name and date was not a big problem.

\* Local walkers will be having their chance to demonstrate their ability this week as they walk a 32 mile route. It's well I'm not in that. Even the thought of the local joggers rising at dawn each morning for a work-out makes me tired. The prospect of 32 miles on foot sounds like the living end. But good luck to those who will give it a try.



THE SOUND OF MUSIC rang through the auditoriums of three high schools in Milton, Oakville and Burlington last week as a 75-piece concert orchestra and a 300-voice choir toured and performed in

Halton County Board of Education's Music Festival '70. George E. Houselander is shown conducting the student orchestra.—(Staff Photo)

## Champion Editorial Page

### Impressive performance . . .

In the course of a year we attend a lot of functions, some because we want to and some because we have to. We have rarely attended a function we enjoyed more than the county choir and band concert presented at Milton District High School last week.

The combination of 300 voices in the choir and 65 instrumentalists in the orchestra was impressive and their performance was outstanding. Our optimism for youth was renewed.

Back of the performance was the fact the young people involved had given up Saturday mornings for the past six weeks to practise. They had to want to be participants and the effort on their part, combined with the leadership of staff, developed a program that is bound to attract greater crowds in the future.

It was new for this area, where the Music Festival has been the major platform for musical talent. It just didn't seem possible all the logistics of assembling young people from across the county for practises and three performances could be effectively met. If there had been some experience on the part of people in this area to this kind of performance, seats would have been at a premium. We suspect this will be

the case next year. We heard no one who didn't think the program was impressive and professional.

The involvement of young people was complete from the master of ceremonies, who turned in a polished performance, through the instrumental and vocal soloists, and the audience clearly loved the whole thing. We've never seen a local audience spontaneously offer a standing ovation to performers before, but they did last Tuesday and that has to be some kind of an indication of how the performers won the hearts of the audience.

There are some things that can be achieved through bigness which would not have been possible before the County Board program in this area. The county choir and band is one of them. We hope that some of those who find only brickbats for the County Board may stumble over this particular program, which we felt was not only a real accomplishment, but a worthwhile experience. We would roundly endorse its continuation. Young people love to perform and as a group they proved they can do it well. They also proved they are willing to invest effort and free time. With that combination we look forward to next year's performance.

### There's a limit . . .

Halton residents are concerned about quality education but most of us thought that's what we were getting. The current doubletalk in the board-teacher discussions at the secondary school level is giving a lot of us some serious doubts about the quality of education.

But then we have to conclude that the slogan about "quality education" is perhaps a rather large umbrella under which a lot of things are being pulled, without too many specifics.

It's about time these things like "meaningful involvement" and "pupil-teacher ratios" were spelled out. The teachers object to the Board suggesting a change in the ratio from 18.1 to 16.1 would cost \$1,000,000. They object they've never suggested any such thing. Well, just what is their specific suggestion? "That's a difficult question to answer".

What is this thing called "meaningful involvement"? The Board promises this and that but the indication from the teachers is that they're not happy with that. Just what is it you suggest? "That's a difficult question to answer".

Ask any taxpayer and he'll gladly tell you the cost of education is already pretty steep. Trustees know

something about that sort of feeling when they plod through meeting after meeting of "dialogue" on the budget, so ratepayers will have some understanding of the spending. They're on the firing line when the rate goes up. And that's exactly why they're there. They have to sense the public pressure and the resistance of the ratepayers to escalating costs.

To take from their control, factors which bear on total spending, is to nullify their effect as political creatures, subject to election by those who pay the bills.

If the teachers feel their "meaningful involvement" entitles them to set all the ground rules it may well be the resistance to rising education costs will increase beyond their wildest imagination and it may be a pretty specific kind of resistance.

The current discussions cannot be considered to be between some remote "board" and the "teachers". Whether he likes it or not the taxpayer is there too and if his chair isn't filled by the trustees the system has gone completely haywire.

We're in favor of quality education but, like any taxpayer, there's a limit to how much we can afford to pay for it.



## Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

This may be cheating, but somebody else is going to write my column this week. I received a 12-page letter from a Prairie wife that made me sick of my own petty whining. With a minimum of editing, and changing only names, here it is.

"Dear Smiley: We've read your column for a long time. I enjoy it. When you told of your daughter's illness, I wasn't able to read the column because my husband was seriously ill with cancer of the lung. I was with him most of the time. I read the one later where you thanked everyone for their prayers . . .

"Anyway, I wanted to tell you how so many people prayed for my poor husband. He died March 9. I really believe all the prayers helped him accept it. He got pneumonia suddenly, had the last rites, went into a coma and died. He was quite thin, but could have lived down to skin and bones, because he had a strong heart, and was only 51.

"He was taken prisoner at Dieppe. The first year they had their hands tied. When the Russians began getting closer, they (the Germans) moved them on boxcars and on foot, with very little food. He once said he thought he should always carry a piece of bread in his pocket the rest of his days so he'd never have to go hungry again. (Ed. note: Me too.)

"He came home in '45 and quite a few of his chums died of lung conditions soon after the war. Anyway, his nerves were really bad, and with trying to farm and father four boys he was an alcoholic for six years.

"Then he went to an A.A. centre. It was terribly hard on him, but he quit for six years. Then he ended up with cancer.

"He used to tell of all the close calls he had had as a prisoner. Then, one day, he was riding a tractor, standing up and looking for a new calf. The big wheel hit a hole and then another, and threw him over the front and the tractor ran over him.

"It broke his right hip and his pelvic bones. He turned over on his stomach and crawled a quarter-mile to the road. He had our faithful dog with him and sent him for help. The dog came back and licked his face, and Jack told him again to get help.

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He went south to the edge of some neighbor's trees and barked and barked. The farmer was just going with his tractor to work again after supper. He told his wife, who thought it was a coyote, that it was Jack's dog and something must be wrong.

"When he saw Jack lying there on the road, he thought it was a clump of old rags. Anyway, Jack told us how he prayed and thanked God for the neighbor paying attention to the dog.

"In the hospital, the doctor operated on his bladder. The pelvic bones had busted through, and the blood was taking urine all through his system.

"Our neighbors had a bee for him and put the crop in. He got home on crutches. That fall, our crop got hailed out. So he sure had his hard knocks in life as well as close calls.

"He used to talk about his accidents so he could say, 'I'll likely die a mean death.'

"So when he found out it was cancer in his lung, he seemed to expect it. He had his operation, and lost his voice all summer and got really thin. Then he gained weight up to 147 pounds and got his voice back, with all our prayers.

"(But, to summarize, large lump on neck going to brain; loss of control of right hand, burning bedclothes when cigarette dropped; mixed up mentally.)

"So I think the prayers helped him to come to his death sooner than he could have. He felt very bad about being a prisoner and being through so much and people didn't appreciate what they went through to save our country for us. He was very sad about Vietnam.

"He would just cry when he'd see the Bob Hope show at Christmas, all those young boys going through so much and the big-shots making millions on their deaths and crippled lives.

"Thanks, Smiley, for listening. I have four boys."

Rest in peace, old kriegie. Be of good faith, noble woman. Be good to her, four boys.



## Pages of the Past

from champion files

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, May 18, 1950.

An entire community was shocked and sorrowed when word was received that George Coulson died during an accident while on an annual fishing trip to the Muskoka Lakes last Sunday. William Arnold, Sarnia, a friend with the party of Milton business men also lost his life on what was to have been the first day of a week-long holiday. The party of fishermen left for Hollow Lake early Sunday morning and after arriving at Dorset fishing camp some miles away, Coulson, Arnold and Frank Johnson were making the final stage of the trip in an outboard when it struck a submerged log, throwing the three into the icy waters. Earlier the propeller had fouled, but the men soon had this repaired and continued on their way. Later some of the party wondered about their absence and began to investigate. They found Frank Johnson unconscious, lying across a portion of the submerged boat, but when the others were found it was learned they had tried to swim the choppy waters and had drowned.

Girls and boys of the Milton Public Schools express their appreciation to the Town Council Recreation Committee, M. Ezeard, chairman and K. Kinsella, manager of the local arena for arrangements made for after school skating on six Wednesday afternoons during the months of April and March.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, May 20, 1920.

The first matches of the baseball season were played here last Saturday, when the locals defeated the Jesse Ketchum-Belmont Midgets 7 to 3 and 8 to 5. Telfer and Kenny pitched for Milton and Taylor was on the slab for the visitors in both games. The big shipment of whiskey that was seized at Moffat was confiscated, except the 24 cases stolen from the car, and will be shipped to Toronto. Nobody turned up to claim it. C. P. R. detectives have been investigating but have found no trace of the men who robbed the car.

Last Tuesday, George Wilson, of the Murdock farm, near Hornby, fell off his wagon on a return trip from Georgetown, breaking his collar bone and numerous ribs. Robert Anderson, Jr. has bought the east end of Mrs. Addison's brick dwelling on Foster St.

On account of the smallpox outbreak at

Brampton the Compulsory Vaccination act will be enforced and no child will be allowed to attend school without a certificate.

Mrs. T. Dales, Mrs. S. Bews, and Mrs. W. Clements are attending the annual Women's Missionary Society Convention of the Hamilton Conference, which is being held in Galt this week.

### 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, May 19, 1870.

John White, Esquing M.P. returned from Ottawa last Friday.

A farewell social will be given to Rev. John Kay, at the residence of Mr. James Nixon, 7th line Esq., on Tuesday the 24th. Everyone is welcome.

The Queen's birthday will be celebrated in Milton in good style. The games will commence at 10 a.m. and at noon the Fire Brigade will parade in their new uniforms. The afternoon will be devoted to athletic games and sports. In the evening a concert, which promises to be a good one, will be given in the Town Hall for the benefit of the brigade. After the concert there will be a torchlight parade.

An attempt which will likely prove successful, has been made to revive the old Brass Band, P. M. McKay whose abilities as a teacher are well known, has been appointed leader. Some of the instruments belonging to the old band have been taken up and the new band is practising steadily. When the permanency of the new band has been established a call will probably be made to the citizens for purchase of new instruments.

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27	28	29	30			

"SPRING PLOWING" was a colored picture postcard sent to customers in 1913 by Milton's branch of The Bank of Toronto. It contained an artist's

conception of the spring plowing scene on Canadian farms—by horse-drawn walking plow, or course—plus a calendar. Card loaned by Larry Phillips.