

Hardly the end

The release of kidnapped British Trade Commission James Cross was like a national conscience clearing for Canada. It proved surely that this kind of exploit by kidnapers cannot force the capitulation of law and order in a city or a country.

Dealing in men's lives is not a light burden but the final exile of those responsible for the kidnapping was effected without any great sadness on the part of most Canadians.

Like others we are elated to see the release of James Cross.

From released accounts of the kidnapers' views it would seem they were prepared to admit that they had underestimated the refusal of the governments to negotiate on the terms the kidnapers spelled out. The expected five or six day duration of the caper dragged into 60 days and as it noticeably dropped from the headlines they were no doubt happy to see some conclusion reached, as were we all.

The bitter page that has been added

to the history of our country is the slaying of Pierre Laporte. Nothing can be done to erase that or to add comfort to his family. It was brutal, premeditated and reflected the savageness of the element involved.

Indelibly inscribed as it is, perhaps may serve as a reminder there are always those who would attack our freedom and supplant for it their own kind of rule. The attackers are not always as open and blatant in their approach, which makes us all a little more conscious of the need for vigilance.

Anxious as we all may be to say the release of James Cross had neatly ended the episode, it would be dangerous to assume that our freedoms are entirely safe. When we lose concern, we can lose our rights.

Surely the one lesson we should learn is the need for continuing vigilance. We are not immune to that need any more than we are immune to stains of violence on our national fabric.



A FRESH BLANKET OF WHITE SNOW fell over Milton and district last week and while some of it has melted away, it's still very much in evidence. The snowfall transformed residential streets in Milton into picture postcard scenes, although motorists weren't too happy and a number of traffic

accidents resulted on roads and highways in and out of town. Merchants were earlier complaining that the lack of a good snowfall was hurting their Christmas gift business, but they are all happily doing a booming business since the white stuff came down early Friday morning.—(Staff Photo)

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MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1970

THIRD SECTION

More parking

We're happy to see some progressive steps toward more off-street parking for Milton's downtown core. Last week's approval by council of a Parking Authority proposal to purchase two more Mary St. properties is another step in the right direction.

Before long we can envision the local parking authority owning or controlling all the properties on the south side of Mary St. between Hugh and Charles Sts. Then council could make plans to carry Mary St. straight through from Bronte to Ontario Sts.

and it would give the town another major east-west artery. As it now jogs at the rear of the downtown stores, Mary St. is a bottleneck.

The parking authority and council will soon have eight lots ready for off-street parking along Mary St. Some parking has already been provided by private enterprise. Once the lots are ready to accommodate cars it will be a pleasure to witness the removal of the dangerous angle parking along the main street.

Editorial notes . . .

Election night was an exciting one across Halton and here at The Champion the telephones were ringing constantly as readers called in for up-to-the-minute results from the various election centres through the county. Hats off to the winners and condolences to the losers—with close to 200 candidates competing for just over 100 public offices there were bound to be almost as many losers as winners.

One of those retiring from public office this year is the "grand old man" of politics in Esquimes Township, Reeve George Currie. Mr. Currie has served a total of 34 years as councillor, reeve and deputy reeve and on two occasions held the post of Warden of Halton County. The 80-year-old-reeve felt it was time to turn in his gavel and

hand over the reins to a younger man. He retires with a record of long service that will be hard to beat.

Watch out for unscrupulous sales gimmicks during the Christmas season. One example is a "sale" item which you may find is more expensive during the festive season than at any time during the year. Another type of come-on is the practice of some firms to mail you a gift accompanied by an invoice. Often the wife thinks the husband ordered the present and the husband thinks his wife placed the order. One local family learned how this system works when an expensive record album arrived in the mail. They couldn't possibly have ordered the records—they don't even own a record player.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

It's one of those days. A wild, white yonder outside the window, snowing and blowing as though we'd never seen the stuff before and someone was trying to impress us. And just two days after some nit of a cab driver told me sagely, "Sure looks like we're gonna have a green Christmas."

We're redecorating the living-room. It's 30 x 18 x 10. Move all the junk out of that crypt to paint and there's no place elsewhere in the house in which you can draw a deep breath without caving in some ribs against an upturned chair or a bookcase with its feet sticking out.

Everything's gone fairly smoothly, but my wife is slightly hysterical about one slip. For two years she's been bellowing at the kids to keep their rotten bare feet off her new mahogany coffee table. (Nobody, of course, adults included, is allowed to put a cup of coffee on the coffee table.)

This morning she found that the painters had put a gouge about a foot long and a quarter-inch deep in that virgin territory. She's suffering as much pain as though someone had taken a can-opener and put a gouge of similar dimensions in her own skin.

I offer all sorts of comfort, like, "Well, now we can put our feet on it," or "Nobody'll notice that, when it's covered with coffee cups," but the result is more like throwing oil on fire than on troubled waters.

The phone hasn't been working for two days. For me, this is unmitigated bliss. But the old lady is utterly convinced that all sorts of people have been calling us about a death in the family, Lord forbid, or a birth in the family. Lord doubly forbid.

That's the in-calls. I never call anybody. But without the out-calls, she feels as helpless as a female with both arms in a sling, and a back zipper to be zipped.

I've got a knee like an elephant. One of my old football-war knees has decided to start me off on a merry winter, and is swollen right down to an ankle like a piano leg.

It began with curling too vigorously. But it didn't help that I went to the local ball-of-the-year on Friday night with a game leg, and danced a lot gamier than I should have.

With an elastic bandage and pain pills, I

manage to get about, just lame enough so that I can't possibly help with moving furniture. You should see that wife of mine manhandling a grand piano all by herself, with me helping by grunting. I doubt if she's lost ten pounds in the last two days.

Just to make it a truly joyous day, I'm marking exam papers. This is something like the Chinese water torture. Drop by drop, it pierces your skull that you never were, are not, and never will be able to teach anybody anything more than to tie his shoelaces.

All I have learned today is that "prostitute" is now spelled "prosecute", that "savagery" has become "savagism" and that a fellow who flies an aircraft is a "pilot".

However, I am not complaining. The painting is finished. My knee feels much better now that the furniture is all moved back. It has stopped snowing as I've written. The phone company has been able to break through. The old girl has forgotten her despair over the gouge by spotting a bump in the plaster. And I just marked an exam paper worth 90 per cent.

Because of the dance, I have a new suit, first in six years, new shoes, new gloves. Quite smashing, really.

I don't have to go back to the dentist for two days. The cat is spayed. The snow tires are on. My wife, who predicted her own death by noon, is alive and well and snarling commands.

Not a bad old life, really. Better here than the graveyard, though I could use some of that rest. If only it weren't eternal.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Dec. 7, 1950

Excavations have been made and forms are being built for the foundations for Halton County Home for the Aged on No. 25 Highway south of Milton. Watermains and ditches have been dug and mains are now being laid to the properties from the Milton waterworks system.

With less than half the eligible voters exercising their franchise on Monday the voting was not keen in Milton. Mayor Heslop, Reeve Dick and Deputy Reeve Higgins had all been accorded acclamations and two of the wards returned members of the school board by acclamation. There were no by-laws before the electors and less than 600 voters turned out.

At the annual ratepayers' meeting held in Bronte last Friday night it was stated that incorporation of Bronte as a village is practically certain if the petition that is being circulated passes the necessary authorities.

The former reeve of Nelson Township, George Thorpe was returned to office in the elections held in Nelson last Monday. His 1,253 votes have him a clean majority over Elmer C. Foster.

The annual meeting of Nelson Township Federation of Agriculture was held in Nelson Hall on Wednesday evening with Vernon McArthur being named president of the association.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion Thursday, December 9, 1920.

Milton will enter an intermediate team for the OHA competitions and hopes to cut a creditable figure in them, having last year's team intact, with a number of promising players who need nothing but a little experience.

Miss Bessie Anderson, of General Hospital staff of nurses, has left Guelph for her home in Campbellville, after having completed her three year course of training at the institution.

The Warden's supper will come off next Thursday evening, after the meeting of county council.

George W. Curtis died of Bright's disease last Saturday at his home near Zimmerman.

Burlington's monument to fallen soldiers will be a bronze statue of a Canadian soldier in heavy marching order on a pedestal of Stanstead granite.

Owing to the shutting down of industries there is a great deal of unemployment in Milton, as elsewhere in Ontario, and it is feared that some families will suffer during winter unless work can be found for the bread-winners. Happily some is being found. Fred Inman is taking 10 of the men to the bush and farmers are engaging others, but still more employment is needed.

100 Years Ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion Thursday, December 8, 1870.

The Methodist New Connexion Church, after undergoing repairs and renovation, will be re-opened next Sabbath. The Rev. Edward Kershaw will preach at 1.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. when collections will be taken up for the trust fund. On Monday a social will be given in the church by Mr. Logan McCann when music, addresses, recitations and conversation will be the topic of the day.

The new executive of Milton Curling Club was elected at the annual meeting held last Friday evening. Judge Miller was elected president, Henry Watson vice-president, William Scott secretary and treasurer John Sproat. Sen. Patron is Rev. F. Tremayne, Chaplain Jasper Martin, William Panton, J. Fraser, J. Waldie, Mr. Martin and Joseph Martin were elected to the Committee.

We regret to say that the illness of John McNaughton, Esq., prevented him from presiding at the last meeting of County Council on Tuesday. Mr. McNaughton has been ill for some time past, but he is slowly recovering.

The examination of the pupils of the Palermo Common School will be held on Friday, December. 23.

Everyone is reminded of the concert in the Town Hall this evening. Proceeds for prizes for the children.

OUR READERS WRITE:

SOME INTERESTING COMPARISONS EMERGE

Dear Sir:

Your edition of Nov. 5 made interesting reading, containing as it did, reports of the Nassagaweya Council in action at a regular meeting followed by last week's electioneering platform. The acts and the speeches make interesting comparisons in some cases.

On the one hand a promise is made to fight to the death for the preservation of every individual's rights yet several current points of concern emerge:—

1. Has Council written to Minister Jamieson to protest the proposed land freeze, possibly of our entire township, while he seeks a further agonizing extension to make up his mind? This could affect all individuals and impose acute hardships. Have they researched and questioned the propriety of the proposed step, in an official capacity, as representatives of all the residents? If the freeze is permitted without resistance and property values fall, will our assessments be reviewed downwards?

2. On the Ottawa-Saeglit problem, I have to assume that building permits were applied for in both cases. Is it not the intention, when application is made for a permit, that the authorities have the opportunity to inspect the plans or the site to ensure compliance with requirements? If a knowledgeable control is maintained, the least result could have been the pointing out of an awkward situation to the two parties concerned. If, as one Councillor opined, the by-law can be interpreted two ways, then Council has a moral obligation for allowing such a situation to exist.

It seems to me that by-laws are passed but the know-how or the will to enforce them is lacking. There have been a number of such infractions where no action is taken: residents notice these - and that no steps are taken, then apathy sets in. The recent issue of a gravel pit being permitted to operate without a license is one; surely, council's position at the O.M.B. hearing was severely weakened by, in the absence of positive action, condoning it.

Approved plans are made, by-laws passed, only to be changed when some business enterprises, though lawyers well-versed in word manipulation, plead ignorance of our plan or dangle the grubsten carrot of a few dollars assessment. And if, to quote, "the greatest natural

resource of the Township is its people" why cannot a more determined stand be taken to protect them? Gravel pit licenses have gone from \$2. to \$100. - why not have them put a \$5,000. deposit, which can be used to finance legal fees should they continue to merely give lip service to the law. Why, at source, are gravel pit owners not required to ensure that their customers comply with the traffic act which calls for a tarpaulin to cover their peaked loads - peaked to the extent that much gravel falls on the roads, causing damage to cars and endangering the lives of those in them?

Whilst this is not intended to be directly critical of Council it will, I hope, be regarded as suggestive of the apparent need for firmer follow-through action in areas which to me - and many others - seem to lack the attention to detail which they need.

Yours very truly
Kenneth Robinson
R. R. 1
Campbellville

NEED LONGER "WALK" LIGHT AT MAIN CORNER

Dear Mr. Downs,

This letter is in regards to the crosswalk at Main and Martin Streets. This crosswalk is very annoying to me and many others.

Firstly, the time limit for one to cross the street is approximately 19 seconds. For elderly people with or without parcels and mothers with young children and perhaps a carriage, this isn't nearly enough time to cross. Even if you get to the corner on time you barely make it across before the light changes. I think at least 30 seconds should be allowed for crossing.

Secondly, I suggest shutting off the walk signal between the hours of 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. This signal being on at such an hour is a waste of time for drivers and if any pedestrians are around they can cross with the green light.

On several occasions I have tried to cross the street on the walk signal and have been cut off by cars turning right. Any child walking from school and watching the signals wouldn't realize a car might turn - they trust in the signals and don't understand traffic at this intersection.

If we make it through this 10th year without a pedestrian being hit, we can consider ourselves lucky - however do we

have to wait until we have a pedestrian accident before something is done about this potential hazard?

Sincerely,
Andrea Porter
212 Queen St., Milton.

CAR CLUB SAYS GIVE DRAGGERS A CHANCE

Dear Sir,

This is a letter from supporters of the Golden Horseshoe Dragway who find it hard to believe that your paper would print misleading information stating that "few drivers from this part of the province compete in the events."

The Golden Horseshoe is one of the best designed strips in Canada with adequate facilities and the personnel is terrific. Safety is a prime concern so it is no wonder that most all of the young fellows who own their own car in this area go to the Golden Horseshoe. The majority of these drivers do the work on their own cars, pay their own way and enjoy the sport of safe legal drag racing.

Drag racing involved precision timing and those who drive will work for hours the night before the race to get a car in shape because you know that the competition is working just as hard. And maybe there aren't any big name drivers in this area. We may never get to be top drivers but we get a good deal of personal satisfaction from the sport.

You won't see any fights at the strip like you see at the Grey Cup game or even at minor hockey, and the critics might take the opportunity to come out and watch us some time, meet the people who participate and give the sport a chance.

Yours sincerely,
The Surchers Car Club,
Oakville.

Members John Saunders, Howard Bradley, Roy May, Glenn Lister, Dave Bates, Tim Scott, Norman Biggar, Bob Bonham, Randy Bonham, Dave Debney; and sponsors Irene Saunders, Trafalgar Texaco, Howard Bonham.

Down [s] in this Corner

with roy downs



I'm always interested in the press releases which pass over my desk, most of which end up in the waste basket, or File 13, as it is known around here. There's astounding information in some of the contents but there is also some real down-to-earth research.

For instance an item from the Ontario Department of Trade and Commerce purports to have pinpointed the "average Ontario woman." This is an astounding feat, for no woman likes to be thought of as "average."

But Mrs. Lilah Lymburner, who wrote the release, wriggles out of that one by stating that although the following statistics are average, the women they supposedly represent are very much individuals.

So here they are, in case you are interested in comparing Miss or Mrs. Average Ontario with all the Miss Individualists of the province:

She is five foot 4 inches tall and weighs 132 lbs. She eats 3,200 calories a day and is always going on a diet.

The Ontario women annually consumes:—
—160 lbs. of meat; 353 eggs; 91 lbs. of sugar;

—seven lbs. of cheese; 103 lbs. of potatoes;

—100 lbs. of fresh fruit; 100 lbs. of bread;

—21 lbs. of coffee; 244 quarts of milk;

—42 hot dogs; 191 bottles of pop;

—146 packs of cigarettes; 183 ounces of whiskey.

Some of the things Mrs. Average doesn't like to hear and which mere husbands knew all along:

She watches television five hours a day, spends a year of her life on the telephone, uses \$50 worth of cosmetics, spends one and a half times as much on clothing as her husband, charges 50 per cent of her purchases and returns 80 cents of every retail dollar.

A few weeks ago this corner castigated some British doctors who said burping was not only uncouth, it was of no physical benefit to babies. Our retort was "let them burp - it's very satisfying."

Now an expert in the field of etiquette, none other than Amy Vanderbilt, has also come out on our side. "Physiologically, it's better to burp than hold it in" says the famous lady etiquetteian (??) whose books have sold more than two million copies. "I say if you want to burp, burp, and don't be unduly apologetic about it," quoth Amy.

Hear, hear, say I.

Philosobits

By Edith Sharpe

Wouldn't it be nice if everyone who lives on "Grumble Street" would move to "Thanksgiving Street".