

All about / People

The mystery of "Eva H." is solved. She is Miss Eva Houston of Mill St. Last week The Champion appealed to find her, after F.C. Falk of Kamloops, B.C. wrote to inquire if we could locate her, re a family matter. Miss Houston's first cousin is Edith Falk (nee Paige) and although she attended school in Milton, has not lived here for many years. We have put Miss Houston in touch with the Falks.

Here's another request — this one for former students or teachers of Lousana (Alberta) Consolidated School, to attend the school's 60th anniversary celebration July 1 and 2. For information contact Mrs. Mona Knights in Lousana or Mrs. Jean Johnson, Delburne, Alta.

Milton area resident Ruth Wilson was recently named the vice-chairman of Halton Hills Library Board. She was also named the board's representative to the South Central Regional Library System.

We see where Rev. Bern Warren is back in charge of Bezek, the Christian retreat centre at Campbellville, following a six month sabbatical. During his absence, associate director Garth Hunt was in charge of Bezek's ministry.

Mr. Warren reports in "Chunk of an Ox," Bezek's newsletter, that one of the reasons he took a six month leave was to get some writing done on three books he wants to publish. He was able to complete one, plus two-thirds of the second.

Elsewhere in today's issue there is a story on the local horticultural society honoring Wilmer Thompson of Martin St. with the presentation of a horticultural award of merit. Mr. Thompson asked us to make sure his wife Margaret shared equal honors with him, as she is 50 per cent of the team — and has been, for more than 50 years, we might add.

Due to ill health, Mr. Thompson was unable to attend the Horticultural Society meeting for the presentation, so club officers visited his home last week to present the certificate. In an accompanying letter, club president Len McNeil praised Mr. Thompson's 14 years of leadership in the propagation of "near-perfect" specimens of roses; regular attendance and participation in club shows; service on committees; donation of many prizes; and a continuing interest in horticulture.

Winter weather doesn't stop the Thompsons from enjoying their number one hobby. Their outdoor landscaping and flower beds are a sight to see in the summer months, but all winter long they grow flowers and plants under lights in their home.

The club president called him "a model for budding horticulturalists."

Agriculture outlook said strong in 1978

By Mark J. Leahy
The annual meeting for the Halton-Peel Cattlemen's Association was held during Farmers' Week, Thursday Jan. 19 at the Brampton fairgrounds. The meeting was chaired by President Bill Jackson.

Gear will handle the publication of the Ontario Cattlemen newsletter. The Cattlemen's Association is pressuring government for laws to protect the farmers against default in payment. This would mean a move towards having all dealers licenced. A number of research projects are being carried out with financial support from the Cattlemen's Association.

The morning speaker was Bruce Matheson, Agricultural Representative in Dufferin. Mr. Matheson showed slides and discussed his recent trip to China. He indicated there are many differences in our way of life as compared to the Chinese people.

The following were elected as Directors from Halton: Lee Wilkinson, Jim McKay, Charles Martin, Bob Merry, John Middlebrook, Harry Brander, Bill Allison, Don Lindsay, Fred Wartlick and Allan Cook. Voting delegates at the annual meeting are Lee Wilkinson, Bill Jackson, Harry Bell and Charles Martin.

A delicious beef on a bun with beans was served at noon.

Lindsay Barfoot from the Bank of Montreal spoke on the future of agriculture. Mr. Barfoot felt that agriculture in 1978 will be stronger than most farmers are anticipating. With regard to the long term outlook, there will be more people to feed and people are improving their standard of living as the time goes on, therefore, more beef will be required in the future, he said.

Keith Moniman reported on the Ontario Cattlemen's Association activities. An assistant has been hired to help the present Secretary Graham Hedley keep up with the many activities. Warren

Schools and liability

More lawsuits predicted

The number of lawsuits involving schools is going to rise markedly in the next decade and approach the level of litigation experienced in the United States, said Dwight Daigneault, a field officer with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation. Mr. Daigneault made his remarks at a meeting of secondary school principals and vice-principals held to discuss the issue of schools and liability.

Don Rogers, a Toronto lawyer whose firm deals with

school liability, agreed. "You are very likely over the next few years to get involved in litigation," he told the group. "It's increasing dramatically all over Canada."

Saying that not only teachers are vulnerable, he attributed the rise to an increasingly litigious society. Anyone dealing with the public who has acquired skills the public relies upon is subject to be sued if he makes mistakes which lead to damage," Mr. Rogers said. But being sued wasn't the end of the world, he stressed,

warning the group against becoming paralyzed with the fear of making a mistake. Risks have to be taken, but they should be minimized as much as possible and teachers should be protected, he said.

The third speaker, Ken Hills, principal of Bathurst Heights School in Toronto, spoke from the experience of having been sued himself. "It's not quite as bad as you think," he commented and also cautioned against immobility resulting from fear.

Mr. Daigneault advised the audience to find out what kind of coverage the board gives them and counselled principals to take out personal coverage. The ideal policy would provide a blanket coverage with specific exclusions. He said some boards have insurance which works the other way around — covering specific incidents only.

He said principals were particularly liable to be sued because, according to the Education Act, they were responsible for the plant (the school property).

Involvement in lawsuits can tie up a principal's time and preoccupation over several years, he added.

Mr. Rogers disagreed, however. He said nine out of 10 cases are settled out of court. In his view, buying insurance is the responsibility of the boards of education. "I wouldn't be surprised if they had adequate insurance," he commented.

In cases involving negligence, the speakers said the court is looking at what a "reasonably prudent" parent would have done under the circumstances. However, when school staff are involved, their actions are compared to the actions of a "reasonably prudent" parent in the situation.

Although he agreed chances of being sued were increasing Mr. Rogers said the board would be the major target of litigation because boards have more money than individuals. "The object

of a lawsuit is to win a lot of money for your client to compensate for the damage suffered," he pointed out.

Mr. Hills offered some practical words of advice to principals and vice-principals. He advised them to anticipate situations and to have good procedures for dealing with them. To lower the odds of an accident happening, they should be aware of their plant and facilities. Staff, including non-teaching staff, should be well informed on the policies and procedures and what is expected of them, he said.

In the event an accident or incident does occur, he said comprehensive reports would be required and stressed the importance of observing and recording the details of what happened, including the time element involved.

Last week's meeting, held in Oakville, was organized by Sandy Birtelmer, vice-principal of Martin Street School. She said having speakers with different kinds of expertise provided the group with several perspectives from which to view the issue.

Obituary

William S. Bennett

William Stafford Bennett of 4267 Walker's Line, Burlington, died at Milton District Hospital on Dec. 22, 1977, following a lengthy illness. He was in his 86th year.

A farmer all his life, Mr. Bennett was born at Zimmermam July 26, 1892, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Bennett. He married Mary Jane Harrison in 1920 and they had five children.

Surviving are his wife, daughters Betty (Mrs. Meville Dolby) of Milton, Patricia (Mrs. Maurice Walker) of Carlisle and Joy (Mrs. Dorwin Watson) of Burlington and a son William Bennett, Burlington. A daughter Gloria predeceased him.

He is also survived by two sisters, Nettie (Mrs. Floyd Green) of Burlington and

Grace (Mrs. John Mac-tavish) of Brantford. Sisters Muriel and Beulah predeceased him.

There are also 14 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was held at McKersie Funeral Home in Milton on Dec. 24, with Rev. Wayne Irwin of Lowville United Church officiating. Interment was in Salem Cemetery.

Paulbearers were grandsons James and Wayne Watson, Larry and Paul Bennett, Gregory Heatherington and Steve Dolby.

—Want to quit smoking? National Education Week on Smoking, Jan. 22 to 28, gives everyone a chance to quit.

Color televisions rise in popularity

While Canadians in 1977 worried about the rising cost of living, increasing unemployment and devaluation of the dollar they, at the same time, acquired more color televisions, FM receivers and automatic dishwashers than in the previous year, according to figures released this month by Statistics Canada.

However, the weekly information bulletin put out by Statistics Canada points out households of the condominium variety were included in the survey for the first time last year and may, in part, account for some of

the differences.

The survey of household facilities and equipment showed 67.8 per cent of the households sampled owned color TVs in 1977 compared to 60.6 per cent in 1976. On the other hand, the percentage of households owning black and white TVs dropped to 56.3 per cent from 62.4 per cent.

Ownership of FM receivers increased to 82.3 per cent from 76.5 per cent and automatic dishwashers to 21.8 per cent from 18.6 per cent.

More people owned automatic washing machines in 1977 as well (59.2 per cent from 55.9 per cent). In con-

trast to the automation was a rise in the use of wood or coal as cooking fuel (1.7 per cent from 1.3 per cent).

Nearly all households had electric refrigerators (99.4 per cent from 99.2 per cent) and almost half had home freezers (47.6 per cent from 43.5 per cent).

Nearly one-quarter (24.4 per cent) of the households surveyed owned two cars in 1977, the same percentage as in 1976. However, one-automobile households dropped half a percentage point (54.5 per cent from 55 per cent). Motorcycles rose in popularity (8.1 per cent from 5 per cent). Snowmobiles hovered around the 10 per cent mark both years.

Fewer households owned sewing machines last year (64.2 per cent from 65.4 per cent).

Teen dance is pilot project

The fund raising committee formed to raise money for the town's new arena will sponsor a dance for teenagers between the ages of 13 and 16 on Thursday, Feb. 9 at the Lions Club Hall in Memorial Arena.

Committee member Rose Harrison said that a disc jockey will play music and a charge of \$1 is hoped to cover costs of holding the dance.

She noted that the committee didn't expect to make a great deal of money on the dance, but saw the exercise as an experiment and an

effort to fill a recreational need for people of that age group.

She noted there have been many complaints about there being nothing to do for people of that age group.

If the dance is a success, there is a chance of similar dances being held on a regular basis.

If the committee learns that no further funds are required for the arena, any profits would go to other cultural-recreational type projects in the community.

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REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The Optimist Club of Milton seeks your financial assistance in the construction of Milton's new Youth & Community Centre. This is a large project to be completed August 1, 1978, at an expected capital cost of \$800,000. This Community Centre will provide Milton with excellent facilities for large and small meetings, athletics, entertainment, all available to the general public.

If you can assist, please send your donation payable to The Optimist Club of Milton Building Fund, c/o 55 Ontario Street South, Suite 27, Milton, Ont. THIS FUND IS A REGISTERED CHARITY; enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for your receipt for Income Tax purposes.

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Gun Control. Working together to save lives.

The majority of Canadian gun owners have traditionally supported gun control in Canada.

Many of these people are sports hunters, target shooters or collectors, and others use their guns to hunt or trap in order to support their families. Generally, they are Canada's responsible gun users.

There is a small but growing group of people in Canada, however, who make criminal use of guns. For example, armed robberies increased 38% from 1974 to 1976. It is this group that the new gun control legislation will deal with through longer, mandatory prison sentences and prohibition powers.

The misuse of guns is increasing as well. Last year approximately 300 people were victims of homicide with a gun. Many in an impulsive moment of violence among family members or friends. New court-ordered prohibitions, police search and seizure powers, and higher gun safety standards will reduce the needless toll of deaths and injuries.

With the continued support of Canadians for gun control, we will reduce the criminal and irresponsible use of guns.

In short, we'll be working together to save lives.

"I own my own guns. How does the new Gun Control legislation affect me?"
If you own only hunting rifles and you store them safely, it won't affect you at all. However, certain other guns will be either restricted or prohibited. Basically, all centre-fire semi-automatics with a barrel length of less than 18 1/2" are now restricted and must be registered. Handguns have been restricted since 1934. Sawed-off rifles and shotguns, guns with silencers and fully automatic weapons, are now prohibited, except those fully automatics registered to collectors before January 1, 1978.

"I'm glad you're getting tougher with criminals using firearms. What happens to them?"
Anyone convicted of using a firearm while committing or attempting to commit a criminal offense will be sent to prison for not less than one year and not more than 14 years. This sentence cannot be suspended. As well, maximum prison sentences for other firearm offences have been doubled.

"Is it true that police officers have new, extended search and seizure powers?"
Yes. Police officers can now seize firearms without a search warrant if they consider them hazardous to the immediate safety of any individual. They will then have to justify the grounds for the search to a magistrate.

"I now own a prohibited weapon. What do I do?"
It is against the law to be in possession of a prohibited weapon. You should contact your local police as soon as possible in order to turn the weapon over to them or to make other arrangements for its disposal. Failure to do so could result in your being prosecuted.

"What does safe handling and storage of guns have to do with Gun Control?"
Last year in Canada, there were over 120 accidental deaths due to the careless use of firearms. Under the new legislation, gun owners are responsible for the safe storage of their weapons. For example, if your gun is used in a criminal action, you could be charged with careless storage if such is decided in court.

"My rifle is now on the restricted list. How do I register it?"
Contact your local police immediately and register the gun with them. Failure to do so is punishable by a prison sentence of up to five years.

"How do you plan on keeping guns out of the hands of people who aren't able to use them safely?"
Through Firearms Acquisition Certificates and the courts' prohibition powers. The provincially administered F.A.C. system will come into effect January 1, 1979. It is designed to prevent unfit and incompetent persons from acquiring guns. The new prohibition power allows the courts to take guns away from dangerous persons.

"Why is Gun Control so important?"
Ultimately, to make Canadians safer from the misuse of firearms. Last year alone over 1,400 people were killed by guns.

Through tighter firearms control, safety education and the encouragement of responsible gun ownership and use, we will be able to reduce the level of firearm violence.

"I would like to learn more about the safe and proper use of guns, and more detail on restricted and prohibited weapons. Who should I see?"
Contact your local police department, Chief Provincial Firearms Officer, or write: Gun Control in Canada, 340 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0P8.

Gun Control in Canada.
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