

Big-city hoodlums wreak havoc during holiday visit

'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of The Champion and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

August 1903

On Monday, Toronto's civic holiday, about a dozen Toronto hoodlums arrived in this law-abiding town. They are said to have come on a freight train early in the morning. After a copious lubrication of the vocal organs and fighting muscles, they started in to paint the town red. Their first scene of operation was the Hartman House, where one of them stole a bottle of whiskey. On being charged with the offence, the bottle was fished out of his pocket and returned. Then the fun began. The ruffian started in earnest to vindicate his good name by threatening to rip up, shoot and tear to pieces on sight. Mine Host Hartman, to save his life, scrambled behind the bar and grabbed a revolver to protect himself. His assailant said he had enlisted against guns and anything so small as a revolver did not scare him, and, diving his hand into his hip pocket, said he could do some shooting himself. About this time Chief Constable Bradley arrived on the scene and managed to get the leaders of the gang outside.

One of them turned on Bradley and struck him several blows in the face while another fellow held his arm. The chief said the fellow used steel knuckles on him, cutting a gash under the right eye about an inch and a half long from which the blood flowed copiously. Bradley, being unarmed and weak from the effect of the blow and loss of blood, had to give up the fight until he could get assistance. Immediately W.A. Lawrence appeared on the scene and securing Brain Bros.' delivery wagon, which was on the street, called for volunteers to round up the toughs. In a few minutes Bradley, armed with a death-dealing Smith & Wesson revolver, loaned by the Bank of Hamilton and reinforced by W.A. Lawrence, James Houston, James Davidson, James Morley, Robert Ramshaw, sr., Robert Anderson and Hugh Campbell started for the exhibition grounds, where the gang had gone. As soon as the posse appeared a general stampede took place and a cross-country race started. Jumping the fence, the hoodlums ran through Jesse Atkinson's orchard into a field of oats on Chas. Norris's farm.

Being closely followed, they struck into the open and made for the 1st line, but owing to the hard run and the effects of copious draughts of the morning, their

Milton Time Capsules



staying powers as sprinters soon played out and in a short time they were rounded up and four of them captured without resistance. The nippers (handcuffs) were placed on the man who struck the chief and the quartette were marched out to the road, loaded into the wagon and in a short time were sojourning behind the bars of Castle Van. Later on two more were bagged, making six in all. One of the number proved to be an innocent onlooker and was released. In the evening another was let go, after putting up enough to satisfy the authorities.

The other four, who gave their names as H. Palmer, Wm. Kettlewell, Alex. Buckler and Eugene Conroy, were remanded to August 11 at 10 a.m. In the meantime enquiries will be made regarding their previous character. This was undoubtedly the worst gang that ever struck this town, and we are sorry some of them got away, but they are known and may have a trip up here soon. The language they used on the street and at the C.P.R. station was of the foulest blood-curdling kind. Ladies took to their houses and bolted the doors from fear of the ruffians. Too much credit cannot be given to Mr. Lawrence and his posse for their prompt action, and Constable Bradley, though getting up in years, showed that he was no coward and we trust that if he ever gets into a gang like that again he will be prepared for emergencies with a good heavy club and a gun. When the prisoners were searched at the jail a corkscrew and 30 cents are said to have been found.

...

Council granted two weeks' leave of absence to Clerk R. Coates and the town hall committee was to provide a competent substitute when notified by the clerk when he intends to take his vacation.

...

Yesterday afternoon John Agnew threshed for Messrs. Greenlees Bros., adjoining the town, 460 bushels of barley and 140 bushels of wheat in four hours, being 150 bushels per hour. This barley grew on ten acres, being an average of 46 bushels to the acre.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached at jdills@idirect.com.

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Canada has lost something along the way in terms of government and other institutions

Dear Editor:

Times have certainly changed from the 1960s and '70s, when the Purple People Eater was a hit and people were treated like human beings.

Yes things were fairly stable in those years, and life had meaning and was good for most. The future looked good.

Then came the 2000s, with over-sized governments at all levels that — in my opinion — promise whatever they need to get elected and then do whatever they wish with little regard for the people.

I feel we're quite over-governed, with duplication at all levels, with over-sized staff and over-paid personnel who do just enough to save their jobs and who exceed their budgets so they can get more money next time to increase their salaries and make sure there's lots of money for those all-expense paid seminars to places we can only dream of going.

Then when all else fails, they hire their buddies as consultants.

In my opinion, we have a medical system that swallows up money like there's no tomorrow yet has gradually given less and

less care to those that really need it.

I feel we have a banking system that considers their customers as money trees. Banking executives feel they can just raise or add a new service fee that will net them billions of dollars with very little effort on their part. Is this helpful to the community?

We have a manufacturing industry that, in my view, will soon disappear due to the high cost of doing business here.

We have a service industry that's misused and over-staffed with high paid executives who draw huge salaries and huge bonuses from the money they overcharge us for such things as insurance, investments, credit card use and funerals.

Then there are the gas and oil companies that basically have, I believe, licence to fix prices at will and laugh at any type of government control.

And let's not forget the natural gas and hydro industries that have been mismanaged and politically driven into such a mess with huge deficits that we'll be paying for many years for overpaid executives that are government appointed as a reward for loyalty to the

parties in power.

And last, but certainly not least, we have an education system that I feel has been completely taken out of the hands of parents and good teachers and given to overpaid boards that complicate the whole picture while spending money on themselves, as well as on buildings and services that do nothing at the class level but cause conflict and grief.

And don't forget the unions that spend all their time protecting the wrong personnel in the system, while schools go dirty and kids learn less.

I believe we have enough money in the system to teach our children right, if we would get rid of the special interest groups and government interference.

I hate to be so negative, but I sure feel sorry for our future generations. I hope and pray that we'll wake up to where we're headed and start to bring our minds back to a future with honesty, morality and goodwill to all without the greed and me-me attitude.

Allan Lisk
Milton

Milton falls short when it comes to public transit

Dear Editor:

Milton's proposed transit routes, while an improvement, still encourage people in the new subdivisions to work and shop out of town.

In my opinion, for new area residents the proposed routes only duplicate the service already provided by GO Transit.

For this my taxes are going to increase?

My daughter must rely on us to drive her anywhere she wants to go. She can't go to work by herself because there are no buses, and she can't visit friends or shop in the evening because there's no service after

5 p.m.

I'm a stay-at-home mother who's isolated throughout the day because my husband takes our only car to work in Mississauga, and there's no stores or restaurants east of Thompson Road.

There were promises that Milton was growing, but I see only a growth in problems and not in services provided.

As much as I don't want to move again, I'm sure considering it.

Chris McFarland
Milton

Letters welcome

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters. Letters must be signed and the address and telephone number of the writer included. Letters can be e-mailed to miltone@haltonsearch.com, faxed to (905) 878-4943 or dropped off at 191 Main St. E.

YELLOW TAG SALE!

ON NOW UNTIL JULY 00

BARGAINS! BARGAINS! BARGAINS!

MILTON
Country Depot
28 Bronte St. N.
905-878-2391

- Pet Food & Supplies
- Clothing, Footwear
- Bird Seed
- Lawn & Garden
- Giftware
- Farm Supplies
- Propane
- Equine Supplies

Monday - Friday 8-6pm • Sat. 8-5pm

UP TO 75% OFF*
SELECTED ITEMS

*While Supplies Last.
Expires July 31st/04