

Pages of the Past

From Champion Files

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, July 7, 1955
Monday morning 25 girls from the Halton Division of the Girl Guides left to spend 12 days at the Ontario Provincial Camp at Doe Lake near Sprucedale.

Kinsmen Little League baseball got off to a fine start as about 100 boys from the nine OBA minor teams that play weekly in the Rotary Club park.

Roy Downs, Milton, this week joins the staff of The Canadian Champion following his recent graduation from the Robinson Business College.

A real estate ad read: Three bedroom solid brick bungalows \$995 down, full price \$10,950.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, July 2, 1925

TAX ENDED—It is now unnecessary to place war tax stamps on cheques, postal notes or money orders for \$5 and under.

The Milton Golf and Country Club entered upon its competition season yesterday July 1 when the first monthly scratch medal contest attracted a large number of members.

The lowest scores turned in were: 1. F. R. McCannell 90, 2. L. H. Servos 92, Maurice F. Pantou 92, 3. C. S. Hately 94.

In his Princess Theatre: Jackie Coogan in his best picture The Ragman, plus a comedy Half a Hero.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, June 28, 1900

MAN VS. HORSE—Edward Core has a horse which he drives on his wagon daily which can make fairly good time in a short race, is quick to start and easily handled.

Rotarama '75 is history now and Milton Rotarians deserve commendation for the kind of five day event they presented as their first effort.

It may be there was some disappointment that crowds were not larger, but they seem to have accepted that philosophically.

all the helpers who obviously put a great deal of effort into the project, will feel satisfied that Rotarama was a success even if financial hopes were not fully realized.

Undoubtedly the club will be searching for the perfect formula for next year combining all the good weather, timing and programming to make the event attractive to more people.

In the meantime we're pleased to see such an all-out effort by a service club.

Graduates

It's interesting to note that most of the top students in Milton District High School's grade 13 graduating class are heading to university courses this fall.

But while those 28 are basking in the limelight, the education system that helped them achieve their current goals is being barraged by an onslaught of criticism.

We were intrigued by the results of a Commerce survey which claims Canada's secondary school system is "producing graduates who lack basic skills and who, in an increasing percentage of cases, are functionally illiterate."

S. F. Hughes, Executive Director of the Canadian Chamber, told a service club luncheon in Hamilton recently that the Chamber wrote the heads of Canadian universities and community colleges posing the question: what has happened to schooling in fundamentals, and how can one assess what a student has learned?

120 replies were received—50 from universities and 70 from community colleges. Excluding the "no comment" replies, there was an overwhelming consensus (74 - 15) that high school graduates were lacking in basic skills.

English and math emerged as the chief villains, said Hughes, with 63 respondents stating that high school graduates were deficient in both.

The overall response to the survey indicates a concern over the fact that an increasing percentage of first-year (university) students are functionally illiterate," said Mr. Hughes.

"It all began in the thirties when the Dewey philosophy reached Canada. The child-centered school... would be a vast improvement over anything that we had ever attempted.

"Memorizing is never entertaining, memorizing therefore is out. If the child doesn't like his or her lesson, either the teacher is a dud or the system is at fault.

"Storms come into everyone's life sooner or later. The days of sunshine or good luck are equalled by the days of clouds, sorrow and bad luck.

A good philosophy in life should be "Do It Now!"

One day at a time is the best way to live, yes just a day at a time.

we mustn't have that kind of thing in the schools. Nor can we have tests to measure achievement, grasp of a subject. That might confront a child with failure and in our system the child never fails, the teacher does or the system does."

On the positive side, one comment (five percent of the respondents) was:

"Let us emphasize our belief that the secondary schools are doing excellent work in many areas. We find that our students... demonstrate considerable strength in discussion groups and in their willingness to state and express opinions.

As to what could be done about the unsatisfactory level of student skills, most respondents did not claim to have the answers, said Mr. Hughes. Many respondents warned against a return to "examinations", and cautioned that whatever was done should not interfere with the "freedoms" in education that have been achieved.

Mr. Hughes stressed that "it is not to be expected that today's youth will work for 25 years in one place, or even in one vocation. Their basic need is to be educated for change, not isolated from change. We cannot guarantee them stability or security. They will have to live with success or failure, fear and frustration. It would be a disservice to shield them from these experiences while they are in school, and to thrust them unprepared into a world of competition when they leave."

So good luck to this year's MDHS graduates. It is to be hoped they have not been shielded from change, from failure, from fear and frustration and from competition. For that's what lies ahead. Life won't be any bed of roses.

Perhaps with 28 Ontario Scholars in the group, this year's graduates won't have such a high percentage of so-called "illiterates" and they will be able to find a happy lifetime, in spite of the educational system that has nurtured them for the past 14 years.

Philosobits

By Edith Sharpe

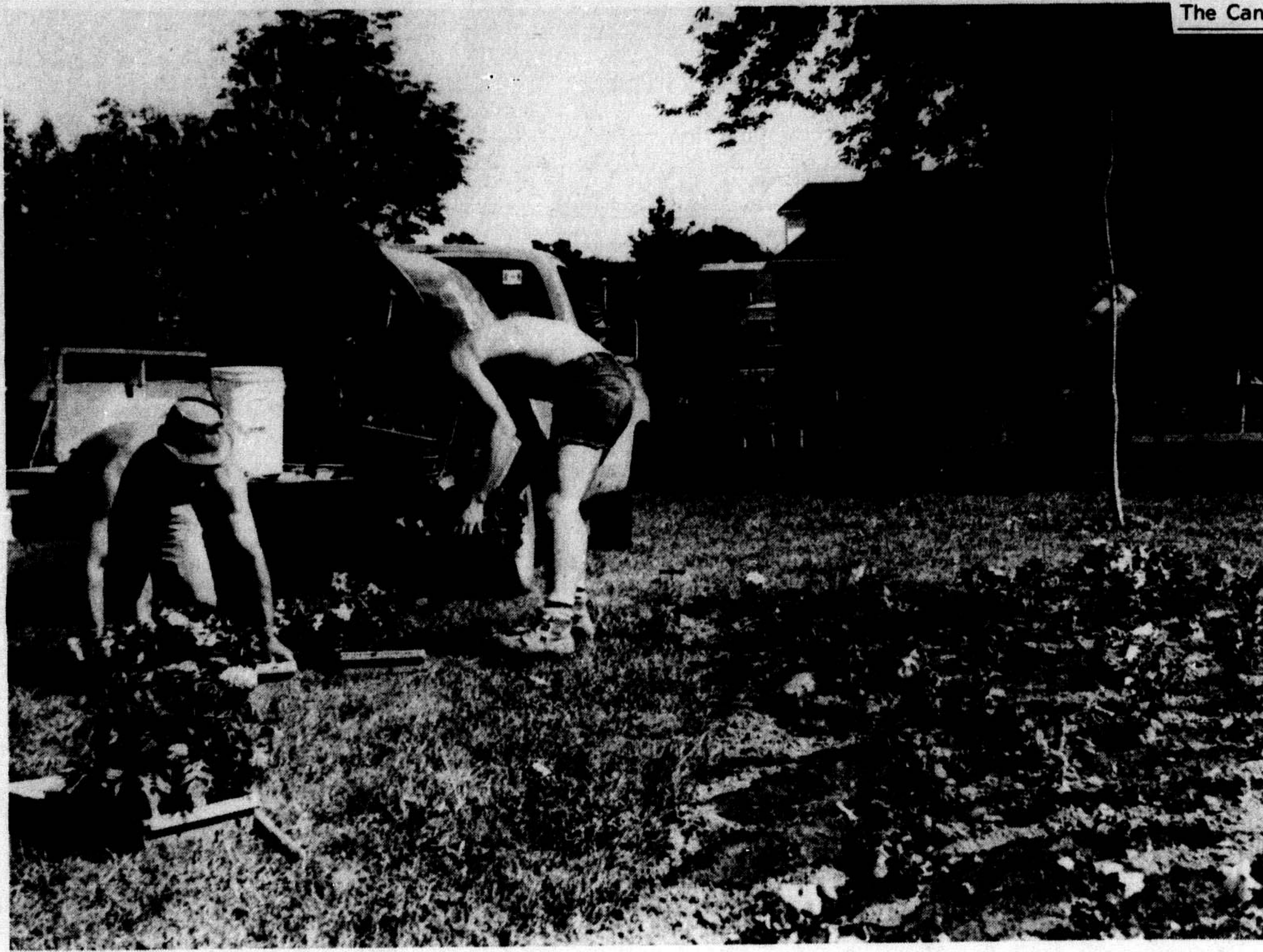
About the only angle we can use when we have problems to solve is the "try" angle.

Sometimes I feel we'd all feel a lot better mentally, physically and spiritually if we spent as much time "mind cleaning" as we do "house cleaning."

I don't think it's such a bad thing to feel discontented at times, for I think to feel that way is an urging inside us trying to tell us we need to stop and look into our lives and see whether we are really living, or existing. Maybe we need to live a new way or do things more worthwhile.

Storms come into everyone's life sooner or later. The days of sunshine or good luck are equalled by the days of clouds, sorrow and bad luck.

Understandably, Sir Dud flew into a high rage, the only type allowed to senior officers, and uttered a good deal of silly



COLORFUL FLOWERS are planted in Centennial Park by town parks and recreation employees.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Recently, I listed some of the things I disliked in our society. When I'd finished, I thought to myself, "Boy, you are a nasty old piece of work. Do you realize you've barely scratched the surface?"

For a week or two, I went around thinking, in 10 or 20 second spurts, every three or four days, that I was a Curmudgeon.

Some of my younger readers will not know what a curmudgeon is. Well, it comes from the root word "mud".

We all know what mud is. It is dirty. It is cool under the toes, unless it is in the form of a mud pack, which is good for the wrinkles. If your name is Mudd, you are also in the doghouse, or you are a loser. I hope that is clear.

To the root word "mud" (unless we want to root around in the mud a bit longer), we attach the prefix "cur".

A cur, as everyone knows, is a cad with teeth, and sometimes a moustache, who plays the villain in old-fashioned melodrama.

In new-fashioned melodrama, he also has teeth, but in addition he has a big belly or a bald head, and he has become the hero, as in Cannon or Kojak.

Still with me? We now have "curmud", signifying a mean guy who is cool under the toes, has wrinkles, or is a loser. Sometimes all three.

Now we come to the suffix, "geon", which is of more obscure vintage.

It is of Hungarian antecedent, and it seems to have meant, originally, something we might call colloquially "a dummy that makes a lot of silly and unnecessary noise without getting anywhere," which is rather a contradiction in terms, come to think of it.

There are many perversions of the original, of course. We find the suffix in such words as "Injun", "engine" and "john".

But the original meaning is in there somewhere. An Injun, for example, is one of the original "In" people, who rides around in ever-diminishing circles, emitting war-whoops, until he is shot off his horse.

Think of your car. The engine makes a lot of silly and unnecessary noise, at least mine does, and gets nowhere. Occasionally, the car gets somewhere, but the engine remains exactly where it started, in the car.

And, of course, there is the colloquial word "john", meaning a toilet. Or water closer or backhouse, if toilet offends you. This item of hardware indulges in a great deal of unnecessary noise, whether receiving or transmitting, and is usually going nowhere, except on trains, buses or airplanes, when it is so active it has to put up with a sign that says: "The john is out of order."

On ships, of course, with their innate sense of superiority, the "john" is called a "head".

This came about when one of the head men in the British Navy, Admiral Sir Dudley Pound, affectionately known to his jolly tars as "dud", once went looking for the "john" and discovered a lot of Common Seamen, and a very common lot they were, lined up with one of the symptoms of scurvy known as "dire rear". In the interests of clarity, this has nothing to do with the term "rear admiral".

and unnecessary noise, or "geon", when he had to wait his turn for the "john".

As naval tradition has it, this led to the wedding of "dud" and "geon", meaning a john that isn't working, or a senior officer with a red face, or a towering rage, whichever you choose. That's one of the beauties of the English language. You can take your pick. And you know what you can do with it.

If you have followed me carefully through this brief but enlightening exploration into semantics, I am sure you have come to the conclusion, as I have, that I am not a curmudgeon at all.

I am not a mean guy. I haven't hit a little kid since mine grew up.

I am not cool under the toes. My feet heat something terrible in this weather.

I am not a loser. How can you know you're a loser when you don't know what it is to be a winner?

I do not go around making silly and unnecessary noises, except when it is absolutely necessary.

And finally, I feel that I am definitely getting somewhere. Older?

I'd like to end with a little poem, dedicated to those keen students of the vagaries of our vocabulary who have followed me down this pit-fallen trail.

That Smiley
While he
Is often in the dudgeon
Is no curmudgeon,
But wily.

Our readers write

School appreciates library

Dear Editor:
We were distressed to learn of the council's attitude towards the library and sent the Mayor the following letter. We wondered if you would be interested in publishing it:

To: Mrs. A. MacArthur,
Mayor, Town of Milton.

Dear Madam,
We would like to make you aware of how much we appreciate and enjoy the beautiful new public library. We have enjoyed a close association with Mrs. Conway and her staff for some years now but this association has really grown and expanded this year, thanks to their new and improved premises.

We make great use of the Regional Film Library and in this way are able to obtain films not otherwise available to us. We have frequently borrowed quantities of books to supplement our own stock when we have been tackling a specific topic, eg., western or science fiction.

Now that the library has moved to more spacious quarters we are able on occasions to hold our classes there. This was particularly useful during our recent Urban Study when nearly 120 of our grade eight students were royally treated by Mrs. Conway and her staff. They had laid out

ready for our visit books, leaflets, cuttings etc. on the properties in Milton which we were studying. They also placed at our disposal their own extensive general knowledge.

Our students are very proud of the fact that their large study map of Milton will be on display in the Milton Room together with the booklets which they have prepared on old and new properties in Milton. We also donated a book of fascinating pie graphs which cost the students many hours of serious research and which reveal some unusual and little known facts about Milton. It is occasions like these that bring into focus the joys and benefits of living in a small and close-knit community.

We hope that as the library continues to thrive and expand its resources that our students will be able to derive even greater enjoyment from this very essential facility. The staff of this school feel most grateful to Mrs. Conway and her delightful staff for all the help which they have given us over this last eventful school year.

Yours sincerely,
Liz Urquhart, Mary Lamont, Tom Gibson, Graydon Petty, Joan Etherington, David A. Haley, Connie Tyrer, Barbara Case, Jayne Smiley, Harry Sadler, Larry G. Forbes, Mary McEachern, Lynda Robertson, John Shea, staff at Martin St. Middle School, 184 Martin St., Milton.

We'll remember Mr. Turner

Mr. John Turner,
Minister of Finance, Ottawa:

From your recent budget, am I to assume: this is your way of wrestling inflation to the ground?

: this is your way of controlling wages and prices?

: this is your way of stabilizing the economy?

: this is your way of reducing the demand on our oil reserves?

I suggest you consider the potential effects:

: 2 to 3 per cent increase in the cost of living.
: increased wage demands, to maintain a buying power,
: increased prices to support both the excise tax and \$1.50 per barrel increase of oil

: increased split between the middle incomes and the rich,
: increased unemployment because the buying power of the consumer you have re-

duced will result in small businesses closing instead of going into debt.

: increased power of the large corporations who seem to govern the country—not you.

What you have done is to take the money from the middle income wage earner again, and again, and again... The beneficiaries are the unemployed, the already rich, the already large corporations.

I offer these thoughts at the next election: remember this budget

: remember your 33-1 / 3 per cent salary increase,

: remember your lack of government leadership
: think of the reasons of your defeat after the next election.

Mr. Turner, think of us—the voters—at the next election. We'll be looking at your performance.

L. T. Hand,
Milton.

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