

Shirley Whittington



By now, you should all know what happened last year, what's ahead for next year and to what extent you personally wish to torture yourself. I'm referring to the three faces of New Year's Eve -- the look backward, the look forward and the passionately undertaken resolutions.

These are journalistic traditions too. About now every newspaper in the world is finished with stories about orphaned reindeer and muggers dressed in Santa suits. It is time for items on prophecy. Celebrated seers inform us on the social medical and moral schedules for Nancy Reagan, Elizabeth Taylor, Ted Kennedy and the Pope.

We can also make plans to move into a safer neighbourhood in order to avoid the predicted California earthquake, western drought and world-wide nuclear war.

News highlights of the previous year are another journalistic tradition. Reporters start working on year-end round-ups as soon as the Ho-ho stories are out of the way. If you don't mind being the last to find out about things, you might get along very well with only one newspaper per year. The first edition in January carries a concise account of who

died, was honoured, banished, fired or hired; what burned, closed, started, ended, and what places were robbed, destroyed or forced into bankruptcy.

Now we get to the third journalistic New Year's tradition -- resolutions. Columnists publicly swear off booze, smokes, refined sugars and errors in fact.

The noble vows usually don't last much longer than the plastic battery-operated, computerized, 3-D Whatsis you gave your kid for Christmas, but that's grist for another column.

What I have here today is a list of resolutions for other people. If all of you out there keep the following vows, I will be a better person in 1983 -- guaranteed -- a regular Chuckles the Clown.

First, if you phone me before 10 a.m., please don't start your conversation with "Did I get you up?" To unplug the iron, dash upstairs, dodge the vacuum cleaner in the hall, turn the stove down, and grab the telephone on the eighth ring to be greeted with "Did I get you up?" is to be forced into serious contemplation of homicide.

The three faces of (New Year's) Eve

My second resolution has to do with ice-cube trays. When I go to the refrigerator and find the freezer chock-a-block with plastic containers, their little ice nests as cold and empty as Scrooge's heart, I yell a lot. People who put ice in their drinks should put water in the ice cube trays. If God had meant ice cube trays to languish dry and empty in the freezer, he would have drilled holes in their bottoms.

Aristocrats who live with machines that tidily dispense little half-moons of ice on their own can apply this resolution to other areas of their lives. I bet lots of you forget to put the ice cream back in the freezer, or leave your pyjamas on the floor.

Here's another resolution. I would ask all those who habitually write letters in longhand, in the dark, wearing boxing gloves, to reform. I have made some serious errors in the year just past because I couldn't decode handwriting. Is my best friend ingesting speed or spuds? Is Aunt Fanny going to Hull, Hell, the Hill or the Hall? People who write as if with a sharpened twig held in the mouth must either buy typewriters or study calligraphy.

I ask all radio and television announcers who say "tempecher", "new-clear" and "Sairdy" to reconsider the consonants and vowels in those words. Temperature, nuclear and Saturday would result and all our ears would rejoice.

Finally, people who talk, move about or cough during musical or theatrical performances should smarten up. I mean it. Lately theatre and concert going is so replete with bronchial noises, loud whispers and hurried rustlings, one might as well be sitting in the emergency ward at General Hospital.

Now, to complete the journalistic tradition -- I offer the following prediction: the world will be a better place in 1983 if all the resolutions outlined above are kept by all of us.

If you ask me to add a news highlight for 1982 -- a really unusual story -- I would offer this one. On August 7, at 4 p.m., SW went up to the local supermarket to buy one loaf of bread. At 4:30 p.m. she returned, with one loaf of bread and nothing else.

Happy New Year to all of you. Keep smiling.

Investor's Inquiry



by Charles Colling

In resuming this column after the Holiday Season, my wife Gene and I sincerely hope that your Christmas and New Year's Celebrations were pleasant ones and that the coming year of 1983 will be one of increased hope and prosperity--especially in this area.

It is interesting to note that the so-called analysts, statisticians, doom and gloom boys or whatever--were nearly 50 percent right last year.

The market and economy did drop considerably until early in June, at which time the market and economy turned around and

the markets closed the year at almost the same point as at the first of January last year. I wonder how many times since the depression of the thirties and before that, the same thing has happened?

The prophets, seers, analysts or whatever you wish to call them have had their fun and presumably received their pay or it, but in spite of them, I for one, have not been notified that the world has actually come to an end. I have said a good many times and will say it again: Don't read just the headlines, read the article, read it again, then

read between the lines and draw your own conclusions.

I am sure you will find it more profitable.

Don't expect to see drastic signs of uptrends in the economy immediately--it will take at least one quarter for results of the last quarter to be perceptible.

This is one of the failings of the analysts. They appear to forget that a turn around in the economy takes time to show itself on the financial reports. With interest rates lower, building starts are already increasing and the automotive industry is already showing signs

of improvement. These are two main factors.

Charles Colling is the resident manager of Yorkton Securities Inc. in Midland. In sending in questions to be answered, please remember Securities Commission Regulations will not permit giving opinions or recommendations on any specific securities through this column.

All other signed inquiries will be answered as soon as possible. In all answers only the inquirer's initials will be used. Address all questions to "Investor's Inquiry" c/o The Midland Times, Box 609, Midland, Ontario.

Signs of improvement

Making plans for the New Year

by Irma Garside

With a new year quickly approaching we begin to make resolutions and plans. The ones in which we are keenly interested are likely to succeed and give us the greatest satisfaction. One of mine is to delve more deeply into the interrelationships of people and animals and to discuss various aspects of these with you.

We read more and more articles regarding the beneficial effects on elderly people of their having pets. Its pretty well accepted that children feel less threatened interacting with a pet and that some of this may carry over to improved socializing with people. What is some of the work being done on the therapeutic effect of animals on people?

We are becoming increasingly a mobile populace: both changing our home base and travelling. What do we do with the pet to

make a move less traumatic? It can really feel a loss of belonging and security with moving.

How do you travel by car with a pet with a minimum of fuss? How do airlines take care of your animal? What are quarantine areas like? What veterinary care is a prerequisite? What precautions can I take when leaving my pet while I go away? Some answers to these questions will be forthcoming.

Since Darwin first travelled on the Beagle as the official naturalist, people have been developing a heightened interest in travel - travel to educate themselves about nature beyond their local area. Some of these tours and their specialty will be described.

What exotic pets, if any, may be brought into this country? What immigration laws affect the purchase of an animal in another country?

Some of us cannot, or do not wish to have a pet. But we are certainly concerned about bird, beast and fish. What support organizations are there for animals? How do they operate? What is their field of concern, their limits, their funding? Who establishes sanctuaries and why? We are aware that international societies exist but possibly not their exact function. Just the other day a retired couple was talking with me. They are proposing to lay out and plant a garden and bushes that attract winter birds. They indicated they would be most willing to share their ideas.

The number of strays, rejected and unwanted animals is pitiful. There is a place for each one of us to aid in this problem.

A barking dog creates disquietude for many of us. One, because of the disturbance and noise and two, because we wonder if it is in

distress or is it signalling some problem near it. Something can be done about this issue.

Training pets is of on-going interest. There are a number of recommended books on the subject - to which I will refer.

A question I received was, "Are you going to say anything about getting rid of racoons around garbage, squirrels in the attic or even bats?" Actually there is considerable written about this, so I will gather together that which may be helpful.

Animals down through time have performed many brave deeds. People, too, have shown their devotion to animals in courageous acts. Some of these will be recounted.

The main idea of these writings goes beyond people-animal relationships. Through your interest it is possible to further generate respect for life in any form.

Letters

Dear Editor:

After living in this area for 15 years, I have found, it would appear, that some service stations are poorly operated, but tonight was the final straw.

I have just arrived home after waiting with my friend for two and a half hours for a tow truck.

After trying one very well-known garage, we were told to call another garage because, and I quote, "their closer than I am.", end of quote. Well, we called the other garage, and we were informed that one driver was bowling, and the other driver was not coming all the way down, (from Macey Bay Road) to the Voyageur Restaurant, just to tow the car in, but if we just needed a boost then fine, he would come.

Well, we didn't need the boost. We had already tried that.

Being at our wit's end, I contacted the OPP in Midland, and thank goodness for the officer on duty, as he suggested we try Davies Shell station in Fesserton.

I called Mr. Davies, and after explaining the situation, he told us to stay put, and he would be right out. Well, within a few moments he was there, and after driving myself home, he continued on to take my girlfriend home, and also to tow her car in for her.

I will not mention the other two stations, as I am sure they will already know if they read this letter.

It wasn't all bad

But I ask you this, "if they don't want the business then why don't they just close their businesses and save us all a lot of trouble." I could have understood had this happened after midnight, but it occurred at 9:30 p.m. Should people have to put up with this type of service? I don't think so, especially in the winter.

The only good things that happened were, three people who helped us. The gas attendant at the Voyageur who tried to get the car started; The OPP officer who directed us to Mr. Davies and Mr. Davies himself, who came out without any thought of the time.

As for the two other gentlemen, how about getting your act together, or do us all a favour and close your business down.

Thank you for your time.

I should mention at this time, my friend is covered under the Ontario Motor League, and the garage operators were notified of this when we called for help.

Cheri Ward
Box 142
Waubashene, Ontario

P.S. I should also at this time, thank the OPP officer who was kind enough to come to our assistance, when we needed it. Thank you ever so much. To all those who were helpful, may my friend and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

More than the three R's

Correspondence Education Catalogue for 1983 84--With more than 75,000 Ontario residents enrolled, correspondence education courses offered by the Ministry of Education keep gaining popularity, especially among adults.

More than 100 secondary school courses at several levels of difficulty are offered in many subjects. A 105-page catalogue just published by the Ministry of Education is available on request. Reporters interested in the newsfeature possibilities of this topic can request specific information about

outstanding correspondence students in many areas of the province.

There are cases of senior citizens attaining Ontario scholarship standing and unemployed persons finding new careers. More information is available from the contact.

Enrolment projections see another decade of decline--Total enrolment in publicly supported elementary and secondary schools is forecast to continue its steady decline during the next decade.

An 11-page statistical booklet published by the Ministry of Education projects that the grand

total of students will decline from the actual 1981 figure of 1,793,515 to the projected 1991 figure of 1,603,548--a drop of about 10.5 per cent. Total enrolment reached an all-time high of 2,031,360 in 1971, and has declined ever since.

Another table in this booklet shows that the statistical margin of error between the projected and actual enrolment figures for 1981 was only 0.4 per cent. Copies of the booklet, Ontario Elementary and Secondary Enrolment Projections, 1982-1991, are available on request.