

# The Liberal



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## Rambling Around

By Elizabeth Kelson  
 IS THERE ROOM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE SPACE AGE?

I've heard from various sources that individuality is not encouraged in our complex and seemingly de-personalized world. If they mean that one no longer raises all his own food... weaves and makes his own clothing... cuts his firewood... moulds his own candles and does his own blacksmithing they could be right. On the other hand, it seems to me that the pattern of the individual is changing. The individual is still here but somehow he is different from the rugged individual of pioneer days. Why is it sensible to assume that a person must lose his individuality because he has to work in co-ordination with a larger group. No organization could function well without competent and self-respecting people in it. In these times people do not use all their strength and energy merely to keep alive as did the individualist of yesterday. Thanks to them we have a better economy in our country today. People live better, eat better and have more time for self-realization than ever before. I feel that no matter how much one wants to return to the simple life of the past, he can't ignore the fact that easy access to education has opened new doors in which to express individuality. He can't but realize that preoccupation with material goods and services is not enough. He must pioneer once again into another world. We were made to live in two worlds. The one without is the physical universe and the world within being the spiritual and mental one.

People complain about too much conformity. Conformity has its good points. We obey the laws of the land because we must or suffer the consequences. We cultivate good manners and consideration for others because we are aware of the moral law. If we did not conform to these things the individual would have no chance to develop at all. It is the belief of the Christian that God is daily manifesting Himself in us. His interest in us designates us as individuals with a peculiar destiny of our own. It is our personal relationship to a Supreme Being that sets value on the dignity of everyone. The composer of the eighth psalm in the Bible knew the value that God set on a human being. Jesus, himself, said that we were worth more than many sparrows. This concept will not change in the space age. It will be individuals who do the exploring in outer space. It will be individuals working as a team to put them there. There will be other individuals who will delve into the world of the mind and the spirit, and it will be individuals who help them do that. In the final analysis we are all individuals and the greatest task that any individuals living in this age will have is to be able to measure up to the responsibilities that have been entrusted to them by God.

### THE BOOK OF KELLS

Every visitor should go to Trinity College in Dublin to see one of the most precious books in existence... the famous Book of Kells. This book is taken from its case every night and locked in a safe in the vaults; every morning it is carried to its glass case again and one leaf is turned each day. What is the value of the Book of Kells? Many men have wondered. Professors have been known to speculate in the sanctity of the family circle how much it would mean a year if Trinity sold the beastly book and devoted the proceeds to the staff. (This, of course, is an Irish joke.)

The value of the Book of Kells, is the sum which one millionaire, bidding against another millionaire would pay at Sothby's for it. The Book of Kells is not insured. There can be no other book of its character in the world that is not insured. The college authorities feel that money could not produce another such book, so that the best insurance is to spend a fraction of the premium that would be necessary on extra fire-hoses and watchmen.

When the barbarian was exploring the ruins of Roman cities in England and the imported gods howled for blood along the seacoast of Norfolk, Irish monks decided to sail for England and bear into that distressful country the light of Christian learning. London at this time was a haunted Roman ruin on a hill, with brambles over London Wall and the campfires of the East Angles shining in the marsh beyond the city which they were afraid to enter. Paris was a desolation and the sun was setting over Rome. But Armagh, the religious capital of Ireland, was the centre of European culture. During the three darkest centuries of English history Ireland was saving Greek and Latin culture for Europe. It was from Ireland by way of Iona that Christianity came to the North of England. At the beginning of this time, an unknown Irish monk was writing the Gospels in an abbey at Kells, in Meath, founded by St. Columba. This monk was one of the world's greatest artists. He enriched his book with a thousand fantasies and a thousand beauties of intricate design. He poured into this book all the power of his imagination. Men looking at it today wonder not only at the fertility of his brain but also at the keenness of his eyes. How is it possible, unless he employed a type of magnifying glass which was unknown in his day, that he could pen such microscopic designs so perfect that sections of them no larger than a postage stamp when photographed and enlarged show no flaw in the intricate interlocking of lines and spirals.

This great relic of Irish art was placed in a costly gold shrine. Later, a thief stole it from the sacristy of the Abbey of Kells. It was found two months afterwards hidden in the earth. The thief had taken it from the shrine; and so the book that was flung carelessly away was recovered, and remains the most perfect expression of Christian art which has survived from the Golden Age of Ireland. It is in the Book of Kells that Ireland's remote past lives gloriously in subtle line and perfect color. When a man turns the pages of that great book he turns back the centuries to a world of Irish saints, of Irish poems, of Irish legends, of Irish boats sailing over the sea taking the light of the Christian faith into the dark places of the world.

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## Mental Health Assn. Gets Drive Approval

The work being done by the Canadian Mental Health Association was of high character, Councillor Mrs. Margaret Southwell told members of Richmond Hill Town Council when an application from that organization for approval of a local canvass on June 1st and 2nd was heard. Describing the association's work among mentally retarded, Council approved dates for the canvass and referred the grant request to the finance committee.

## Nature Notes

By Richmond Hill Naturalists  
 What glorious March days! Signs of Spring? Certainly. At Summit on Saturday, some of Richmond Hill youths were skiing in their shirt sleeves and shorts and got their first coat of tan. Even the hornets and flies felt the warmth of the sun and emerged from their winter hiding places. One hornet was short-lived—a chickadee, craving a change of diet, swooped down and swallowed it in one gulp. The wintering robins are uttering their "call" notes and the northern shrikes are starting to sing. Crows are everywhere. The horned larks can be seen, feeding in the gravel on the side of the roads or in fields where manure or exposed brown patches are showing. The cardinals are the cheeriest of all birds. We can be thankful that there have been and are continuing to be protective laws in connection with many of our birds. At one time, in the southern states, the cardinal was a favourite cage bird. If law had not been enforced we would not now have the privilege of enjoying this bird. Each year they expand their territory farther north either in undeveloped areas or in the suburbs and cities if the habitat is right. The evening skies are reflecting the coming of spring too. Venus now remains in the western sky for a little while after sunset. You will be able to see it as a brilliant star very low in the western sky just as dusk is falling. The familiar "big dipper" which is part of Ursa Major, the great bear, is now high in the northeast. During the fall and early winter it was very low in the north.

The bright sunny days are making people think of gardens. It is to be hoped that too many won't find that the mice and rabbits have been eating their shrubs and plants. The deep snow has deprived them of their usual food and, in many places, they have eaten off the top of raspberry canes and other plants. The hawks and owls (which are also protected) help to keep the mice partially under control but, in town, the rabbits have a hey-day. Dr. Walter Tovell is to be the speaker at the Naturalists' meeting on Friday, March 16th. Dr. Tovell is past-president of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and is on the staff of the Royal Ontario Museum in the earth sciences department. His talk will be illustrated and certainly will contain a wealth of information for everyone.

## Former Newsmen Dies

A former Richmond Hill newspaperman, Paul Delmer, was killed in a motor car collision in Burrow Falls, Idaho, recently. Mrs. Delmer, involved in the same accident, is said to be in serious condition in hospital. No news of the children was available. Mr. Delmer since leaving Richmond Hill, had been in Edmonton, British Columbia and the western United States.

## Dear Mr. Editor

DEPLORES CONDITION OF BAYVIEW AVENUE

Dear Mr. Editor: It seems incredible and immoral that a handsome and well equipped new high school should be provided for our children, and then that these same children should be compelled to wade through a hog wallow to reach it.

The deteriorating condition of the roadway in wet and thawing weather renders it impossible to maintain. Our children are sprayed with mud by each passing vehicle. There is no sidewalk — no way to avoid the street.

I am willing to ruin my automobile (since I must use Bayview regularly), but cannot sit by complacently while our children are subjected to such primitive neglect.

Where should concerned citizens direct their letters of urgent protest?

Yours for pavement and sidewalks,

Albert E. Myers, Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## TOWN COCKTAIL LOUNGE

Dear Mr. Editor: We the people of Richmond Hill should be very grateful to "The Liberal" for publishing Rev. W. W. Patterson's opposition to the proposed cocktail lounge. We should thank God for a minister of our midst who is a true lover of the Lord and is not afraid to speak out against the Vice of our day.

God bless him in his work. Sincerely, Mrs. Lillian Koning, Roseview Ave.

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## Maple Sugar Time

This is the season of the year when sap is at the flow, And thoughts are turning backward to the days of long ago. When, just the moment school was out, an eager little chap Would hurry to the sugar bush and help to carry sap. He'd work like fury for a while, but now and then he'd pause, For little boys get thirsty, and of course there were no laws Against one taking just a sip — the sap was so delicious — And he'd much rather carry sap than help to wash the dishes.

Sometimes when on his travels he'd kneel beside a tree, And discover pale hepaticas, as blue as any sea, But ever in his thoughts there was that splendid night of nights When they'd "sugar off" the kettles and he'd taste their rare delights.

The neighbors were invited and they'd gather 'round the fire, And maple woods resounded to the voices of the choir, To songs our fathers cherished down the path of many years, Those plaintive airs that carry just a poignant hint of tears.

The years have drifted far along but now we never see The snows of winter melting beneath a maple tree Without recalling youthful thrills when, over field and tarn, Came news that sap was runnin' on the hills behind the barn.

— Robert D. Little

## Second Thoughts...

by George Mayses  
 ● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

East York water meter readers have been ordered to spy out unlicensed dogs in the homes they visit. They should be able to do it with the usual meter-reader's cur-sory look.

MPP Ross Whicher has been styled the Liberal's "financial critic" after charging the Ontario Government with phony bookkeeping... Well, he certainly seems to have a flair for figures—his last target was the girlie magazines.

The U.S. space agency is asking Congress for a quick approval of \$15,000,000 for an antenna to receive "live" television from the moon... They don't want any Red tape.

This is news? Dept. (1) A TV listing for "Take A Chance" (Roy Ward Dickson introduces some changes into the format.) (2) Toronto's Mayor Phillips and his wife celebrated their wedding anniversary by going out to dinner.

A nineteen-year-old farmer's son was charged in Etobicoke Court with cashing his father's hog cheques to pay for his flying lessons... Literally a case of "high on the hog".

Meanwhile, thousands of pigs are being held at Sunderland's bankrupt "Pigglyland" awaiting court direction of their disposal as assets... This is one decision that is bound to be rendered sometime.

The U.S. plans to resume atmospheric testing of atomic bombs because, they say, underground tests are unsatisfactory... They can't tell their blasts from a hole in the ground.

Premier Khrushchev promises that there will be an egg a day for every Russian by 1980. Giving them the old shell game?

A business symposium in Endicott, N.Y., has explained the advantages of an IBM computer in farm management: The farmer feeds into the electronic system all the details of his acreage, yield, possible crops and prices, etc.—including a financial statement. Within half an hour the computer will tell him what to plant... A similar and faster device is known in Canada as the WIFE.

The Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training has invited astronaut John Glenn to their Toronto dinner on March 22... A wise choice. HE certainly made a come-back!

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## Review Needed - And Fast

If a business goes into bankruptcy a couple of plain and simple things happen. The community in which the business is established loses the taxation revenue which helped to maintain civic services for the benefit, not only of the business itself, but of all citizens. The people who worked at that business lose their jobs. Stripped of emotional verbiage, those are the plain facts of the case.

In adopting the new and badly-needed transient traders by-law recently, Richmond Hill Town Council affirmed a principle. It declared that the tax revenue was important. By setting up a scale of licence fees to be paid by new or "transient" merchants it took a firm stand in making sure that taxation due to the municipality was, in effect, insured. It decided to protect existing merchants by making sure that "hit and run" competition which failed to pay its share of running the town was eliminated. Whether councillors meant it to be that way or not, that is the effect and the logic of the situation.

In the face of that, it is rather difficult to understand a statement that "You can't legislate competition out of business" made at a recent town council meeting when two local restaurant owners protested the operation of travelling snack bars. Council agreed not to take action against them. They operate under a licence which costs \$30. It was claimed that such operations also pay for vehicle

licenses and gasoline tax. But how much of that does Richmond Hill get? On the other hand, one of the restaurant owners who lodged the complaint—a highly regarded citizen of the highest calibre—pays \$1,401 a year in taxes to the town. He has a capital investment of many thousands of dollars. He is expected to keep his doors open at least eighteen hours a day to give service. A considerable part of his business is being taken away, right under his nose, by an operation which pays \$30 a year. He operates on down-town Yonge Street—a thoroughfare marred by the blind eyes of vacant store windows—a street which has already become a source of major concern to town fathers and many others.

There is no suggestion that he is going bankrupt. But the fact remains that others have. Is the town council betting \$30 against \$1,401 on his ability to survive? This newspaper, purely as a matter of commonsense, thinks so. If a transient trader by-law is a necessity—and we believe it is a vital one—then it should apply with equal weight to all. Town council does not want to review the legislation "piece-meal". But maybe it would be better to do that than to see substantial civic revenue — WHICH MEANS SOMETHING TO ALL CITIZENS—disappear piecemeal.

For that is what is happening, whether town council sees it that way or not.

## Soon Johnny Will Read

Nine hundred high school English teachers in the United States will undergo re-training on twenty university campuses this summer as the first step in a nation-wide effort sponsored by the College Entrance Examination Board's Commission to improve the teaching of English. The seriousness of the problem has been described by the National Council of Teachers of English. In 1960, about 150,000 students flunked the college entrance test in English. Approximately 70 per cent of all colleges must offer remedial work in English, and some graduate schools complain that the efforts of even their more brilliant students are hampered by inability to put their ideas into words. American educators also say that at least for the better students from the better high schools, the college freshman English course in many colleges is obsolete, redundant and in danger of becoming downright insulting.

The greatest weakness, they say, is that too many freshman English courses link up with nothing and lead nowhere. So reform in the teaching of college English is also underway. The teaching of English has so often been hindered by fads — one extreme faction, a few years ago, even advocating that all reading should be silent. How a teacher was to judge the progress of a pupil taught by these methods was never clearly defined.

A little more than a decade ago, public indignation sparked by critical articles appearing in the national press, revealed the fact that not only could Johnny not read, but neither could Susie, Tommy or Jane. If

Johnny could not read with understanding and ease, how could he be expected to cope with the intricacies of mathematics and science, and the wonders of history and nature waiting to be revealed to him within the covers of a multitude of books?

Reform was indicated and reform was introduced. Phonics were rescued from the limbo into which they had been cast (except by a few teachers — and Johnny, as well as the other children began to read, and to read with enjoyment and understanding. New methods of teaching reading have been tested and some are doing an excellent job.

One result is that a principal of a local public school can report with pride that last year children in a grade four class read an average of 40 books on a wide variety of subjects. These pupils displayed avid interest and intelligent understanding of the reading matter.

Pupils in all eight grades of local public schools are reading with an ability and pleasure that was not the case only a few short years ago. This is true not only of Richmond Hill and its surrounding district, but throughout the province of Ontario.

This is where reform in the teaching of English should start, we think. A child who has learned to read easily and intelligently will have no trouble in obtaining and retaining a comprehensive knowledge and command of his own language — and by that knowledge and command absorb a wider and deeper education in all its aspects. He will have no difficulty in putting his ideas into words.

## Mental Health

There are more hospital beds occupied by the mentally ill at any one time in Canada than by patients suffering from all other types of illness combined.

The cost of hospital care for Canadian mental patients is already in excess of 70 million dollars a year. Waiting lists for admittance to most mental hospitals indicate the total will continue to increase.

The Canadian Mental Health Association is a voluntary citizens' organization to combat the problems of mental illness and build better mental health in Canada. Securing hospital facilities up to modern psychiatric standards and medical knowledge is one of the aims of this organization. Their community agencies

promote active treatment for early cases and institute preventive programs for the community.

White Cross Volunteer centres act as contact with the outside world for institutionalized patients, and assist in rehabilitation after the hospital stay is over.

Research and surveys conducted by the CMHA works towards better treatment and prevention of mental illness. The group also works toward better understanding of mental illness and the factors involved in building good mental health among the general public.

Their voluntary work benefits all Canadians. Remember the Canadian Mental Health Association and its efforts on your behalf through the year.

## Horticultural Honours

The announcement that the Horticultural Association of Ontario has awarded its Silver Medal to Mr. Robert D. Little of Richmond Hill will be received with satisfaction by his friends, both "old-timers" and those who have chosen to make the town on the hilltop their home in more recent days.

The medal is "not lightly won or lightly worn." The mere fact that it has been awarded only 28 times in the lengthy history of the association indicates that its issuance is on a highly selective basis. Mr. Little will not treat the award lightly. To him it will be only a challenge to do

even more for the cause of horticulture than he has done in the past — and that has been plenty.

The award is not a localized one. Mr. Little has done very much for the welfare of horticulture in Richmond Hill but, in addition to that, he has served well in a much broader field. It is a happy thing that his service has been recognized.

The Richmond Hill Horticultural Society has always been a progressive and community-minded body. Its members should take pride in the well-deserved recognition of one of their own long-term members.