



## editor's choice

### Editorial

by HARRY HUSKINS

Clem Downey died last week. His death marked the passing of one of the grand old men of the North Shore.

Clem brought life and wit and intelligence with him wherever he went. He had boundless energy and drive and always wanted to accomplish something worthwhile.

In the columns of this paper he displayed a talent as a raconteur and historian which we will sadly miss. His writing was done with wit and conciseness. A style that marked a profound understanding of the human condition. An understanding of all humanity's faults and vices and shortsightedness, but above that a feel for the strengths of the men and women about him. Their virtues, the things they did right, and the things they could do better with a little help and advice.

Clem was a man who was profoundly dissatisfied with the world. Not with his individual life, but with what he saw as the unthinking and reckless squandering of the human and natural resources of a country he cared very much about.

During the last couple of years he took a leading role in attempting to better the condition of the senior citizens of this province. He worked actively with his local rock hound group and with his friends and neighbours at Birchwood Terrace.

In his 78 years he saw many things come and go, and he was particularly concerned about the future of the North Shore of Lake Superior. His years in Jackfish, in Rossport, Schreiber, and Terrace Bay gave him an unmatched understanding of our people and of the land around us. His counsel carried great weight in the ranks of the New Democratic Party and in the groups and organizations with which he worked. Clem had no love for expediency. He was not prepared to put aside doing the Right thing just because it was "impractical."

We shall miss him dearly.

*"The death of friends will inspire us just as much as their lives. Their memories will be crusted over with pleasing thoughts and fond remembrances, and sagely recalled advice, as the monuments of other men are overgrown with moss. For our friends have no place in the graveyard. As long as we are, they are. They remain with us, and remain as much a part of us as we are of ourselves."*

THOREAU

### Arthur Black

## The wrath of Bastedo

If you haven't entirely suppressed your memories of your school days, I bet I can throw you into a canyon of depression by uttering just three words.

You ready?

Home and School Meeting.

There, there ... don't despair. You're a grown-up now. They can't make you go to Home and School meetings anymore.

Was it as bad at your school as it was at mine? Maybe they called them PTA meetings in your neck of the woods. Same thing. The ones I remember best — the ones that can still make me jackknife upright in bed at night with bulging eyes and a dry throat ... are the ones that the parents, the teachers and the kids had to attend. They were usually highlighted by a school pageant. We kids had to put on skits, Sharon Conway sang "I Am Calling Yooohoo" and I had to recite The Charge of the Light Brigade.

That was bad enough, but what was worse was that Mister Bastedo was there.

In the flesh.

Mister Bastedo was our school principal — and as grim and frightening a little martinet as every gripped a podium. Mister Bastedo was mostly just a voice to us. A terrible disembodied squawk that came over the public address box above the black board before class every morning.

The Voice would tell you to stand for O Canada. The voice would tell you to sit down. The Voice would go through the No No's. No smoking in the washroom. No leaving the school grounds at lunch. No loitering. No boisterous behaviour in the halls. Then the voice would read the list. "THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WILL REPORT TO THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY!" And you waited. The Voice didn't do it alphabetically or by

classes. The Voice ... circled ... like a cruising buzzard. Plucking a Grade Tenner here ... a senior there ... backtracking for a couple of Grade Nines. You could never be sure that your name wouldn't be next. — Not until the Voice told you to stand up for the Lords Prayer.

That was Mister Bastedo. The Voice. You only got to see him in the flesh if your name was on the list.

And at The Home and School Meeting.

It was no fun trying to remember all the words to the Charge of the Light Brigade in front of a gymnasium full of smirking parents ... knowing Mister Bastedo's eyes were boring holes in the back of your blazer.

But maybe I'm dating myself. Heck, I'm so old I can remember when girls ("gals Mr. Bastedo called them) — got sent home for wearing slacks. I don't think

schools are like that anymore.

I know for sure Home and School Meetings have changed a lot. I know that from reading in the paper recently about a Home and School Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. School principal Robert Miller is in a bit of hot water down there — all because he wanted to present fellow principal with a fitting retirement gift. It was to happen at a Home and School Meeting in the Wickford Middle School Cafeteria. The teachers were there, Robert Miller was there; the retiring colleague was there.

And so was somebody called Alicia. She never gave her last name, but she didn't have to. She stood right out of the crowd. Especially when she dropped her coat and began shimmying across the cafeteria floor toward the retiring principal. She was wearing a bra and a pair of harem pants. Alicia was a belly dancer.



She was also Robert Miller's idea of a fun retirement gift for his fellow principal. A bellygram. Get it?

Well, it might have worked if the parents hadn't been there too. There were about 100 of them and apparently they were a trifle offended.

Mister Miller claims it was just a practical joke gone awry. He didn't realize the parents were going to be there.

Personally I don't see what all the fuss is about. It sure beats listening to Sharon Conway singing "I Am Calling Yooohoo..."

Or me reciting The Charge of the Light Brigade.

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Editor: Harry Huskins  
Features Editor: Judie Cooper  
Business Manager: Diane Matson  
Production Manager: Mary Melo  
Receptionist Carol Koshowski member of  
Contributing Editors  
Win. Campbell  
Clem Downey  
Mary Hubelit  
Anne Todesco



### GRANDPA AND ME



### BY MARK TURRIS

### Northern Affairs

## Debts and bankruptcy

by JANE E. GREER

If you are having debt problems, you're not alone. Your problem is shared by thousands of people.

There are a number of danger signals — to determine whether debt is becoming a problem. These include:

- do you have to borrow money to make it from one payday to the next?
- have your wages been garnisheed to pay for outstanding debts?
- are your creditors contacting you for payment? are they threatening to repossess your car, furniture, or television set or even sue you?
- do you pay interest and service charges on monthly charge accounts because you can't pay on time?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, you may have a debt problem or are heading for one. There are several solutions you can try:

- contact your solicitor, explain your difficulties (lay-off, illness, for example) and ask for some kind of temporary arrangement; you may be surprised but many creditors are more than willing to do this
- you can try a debt consolidation loan; with this, you put all your debts in one package and then make one monthly payment to that lender
- contact the closest credit counselling services agency to discuss your financial problem.

If none of the above solves your problem, you can, as a last resort, file a voluntary bankruptcy. The bankruptcy will stop legal actions against the debtor who will usually be released from most debts after a certain period of time. A person who declares bankruptcy undertakes certain duties described in the Bankruptcy Act such as:

- a) the debtor is required to turn over to the trustee all property which is not declared unseizable by provincial laws
- b) all bankrupts are expected to pay to the trustee, for the benefit of creditors, any income in excess of a reasonable cost of living; if necessary, the amount to be paid would be decided by the court
- c) the court also has wide discretionary powers in granting a discharge of the debts and may set conditions to be met by the bankrupt before an absolute discharge will be granted.

There are certain debts which are not discharged by bankruptcy, the main ones being court fines, alimony, fraud, false pretences and debts for the necessities of life, such as food and clothing. Bankruptcy, as a solution to debt problems, is really the last alternative. Careful thought should be given to other alternatives before proceeding with bankruptcy.

For further information concerning this subject, contact the Northern Affairs Office, located on the Lower Floor, Peninsula Building, 2 Gilbert Street, Marathon or telephone 229-1153, out of town Zenith 33160.