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NOTES and COMMENTS

Why Farmers Don't Retire

The Port Elgin Times asks what is happening to farm auction sales, and supplies an answer: The number of farm auction sales being held this year is probably lower than at any time in the past 25 years. Present-day prices for farm commodities are only part of the answer. A few years ago a farmer could sell out and retire on life savings or from \$15,000 to \$20,000, invest it in good six per cent bonds, or seven per cent mortgages. This gave him a monthly income of about \$100, which was sufficient for him to live quietly yet well in the smaller urban centres. Not so today! With living costs as they are, and high municipal taxation, the average farmer cannot retire unless he can realize at least \$30,000 on his holdings or use up part of his principal each year.

Cut Out the Frills

The Canadian people are more than willing to shoulder whatever extra burden they must to meet the costs of necessary additional defence. But they will expect the Government to cut out a lot of unnecessary frills. Canadians are convinced that scores of millions of dollars could be saved each year if every department of government were forced to make a real effort to "cut out the fat" and operate as economically as possible. The grand total of federal expenditures today—or rather before the additional sums being asked at the present session of parliament—is running at a rate of approximately \$2,400 millions. Twelve years ago the grand total was only \$549 millions.

Even allowing for the \$300 millions a year increase in debt charges, due to World War II, the institution of such approved welfare services as family allowances and increases in old age and blind pensions, health grants and so on, and not forgetting the increase in population and tremendous expansion of the gross national income, such a staggering increase in government costs cannot be justified.

Padded payrolls and swollen costs of administration must be reduced. Such items as postage, telephone and telegraph, travel, materials and supplies, office space and so on, can be trimmed by scores of millions of dollars by the use of commonsense business methods, eliminating time-and-energy-wasting red tape.

Before Ottawa talks of raising taxes, it should trim away every ounce of unnecessary "fat" from government administration.

(from the Edmonton Journal)

What is a Boy?

The following piece, reprinted by the Inco Triangle, bids fair to become as famous as the New York Sun's famous "Santa Claus" letter.

"Boys come in assorted sizes, weights and colours. They are found everywhere—on top of, underneath, inside of, climbing on, swinging from, running around or jumping to. Mothers love them, little girls hate them, older sisters and brothers tolerate them, adults ignore them and Heaven protects them.

"A boy is truth with dirt on its face, wisdom with bubble gum in its hair and the hope of the future with a frog in its pocket.

"A boy has the appetite of a horse, the digestion of a sword swallower, the energy of a pocket-size atomic bomb, the curiosity of a cat, the lungs of a dictator, the imagination of Paul Bunyan, the shyness of a violet, and when he makes something he has five thumbs on each hand.

"He likes ice cream, knives, saws, Christmas, comic books, the boy across the street, woods, water (in its natural habitat), large animals, dads, trains, Saturday mornings and fire engines. Nobody else can cram into one pocket a rusty knife, a half eaten apple, three feet of string, two gum drops, six cents, a slingshot, a chunk of unknown substance, and a genuine supersonic code ring with a secret compartment.

"A boy is a magical creature—you can lock him out of your work shop but you can't lock him out of your heart. You can get him out of your study, but you can't get him out of your mind.

"Might as well give up—he is your captor, your jailor, your boss and your master—a freckle faced, pint-sized bundle of noise. But when you come home at night with only the shattered pieces of your hopes and dreams, he can mend them with two words—'Hi Dad!'"

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE IS STILL BIG FORCE IN CANADA

Is the little red school house to stay? Ontario's deputy education minister, J. G. Althouse, thinks it may be. He says the one-roomed rural school has "a lot to be said for it," despite the gradual trend to

modern, flexible and fancier central schools.

And many residents of Nelson Township, near Hamilton, will agree with him. Groups of parents there recently protested against sending their children by bus to a new central school built to replace several one-roomers scattered throughout the township.

The shift to central schools has usually been made only after strong local demand has sprung up, Mr. Althouse said. The Nelson Township trouble was purely local, and no attempt is made to force central schools on unwilling municipalities.

Besides, Mr. Althouse pointed out, "some of these old one-room school buildings are pretty durable, and in these times of high building costs a new modern central school is not undertaken lightly if adequate buildings are already available."

"And there are areas where there is strong feeling against the establishment of central schools. We are asking them to form township administrative units, but it is then up to the township board whether or not a central school is established."

"It may not develop students as rapidly, but it certainly develops their initiative," he said. "The pupils in a one-room school are certainly not spoon-fed."

"There'll be plenty of little school houses for many years to come," Mr. Althouse said.

FOR PARENTS ONLY



GAMES FOR ALL

By Nancy Cleaver

What can we play? How often mother is asked this question, especially on holidays when school children have long hours to do as they like! But even little folk often want an idea for some new game.

The are many old favorites like "Run Sheep Run," or "I Spy," or "Hop Scotch" which children quickly teach each other in every community. Many new games are just variations of old ones, which have proved their value. For example, "Sardines" is a kind of Hide and Seek.

In "Sardines," only one child hides and after two minutes all the other children scatter and search for the hidden one. When a child finds the one who is hiding, he crouches down beside him. Then when the next child finds the two who are hiding, he also crouches down until finally, all the children except one are hiding. The last one, who has been unsuccessful in the search, becomes the one who is the "Hider" on the next turn.

But variety is the spice of life and it is natural for children to ask their parents for some fresh play ideas. Every family should have at least one good book of games such as the "Handy" Booklets of Social Recreation edited by Lynn Rohrbough or one of Edna Geister's books such as "Let's Play" or the "Fun Book" on its self.

A scrapbook of games or a folder or a large envelope for games clippings, if added to regularly, is invaluable. Many magazines publish ideas for party games or a quiz and if these are not kept at the time they appear it is often difficult to locate them later. Perhaps one member of the family might take over the job of compiling this play material or it might be a family project. The librarian at the public library and the physical training teacher at school are always glad to show a boy or girl where to look for game information.

It is a good idea to have an index for a Games Scrap Book so that Games for Parties and for special seasonal events such as Halloween can be found quickly. Choose whatever headings seem most useful such as Indoor Games and Outdoor Games, "Mixers" or Games to get Partners; Dramatic Games (such as Charades); Pencil and Paper games (such as a quiz). Games needing special equipment (such as a Paper Chase).

Mothers of small children are

sometimes at a loss for new ideas for their play time. On a rainy day, why not draw a rough donkey on a large sheet of wrapping paper? Using narrow strips of cloth and plain pins, play "Pin a Tail on the Donkey." Each child in turn is blind-folded before he attempts to put the tail on the right place. This is such good fun it need not be kept just for a party! A potato relay race, a peanut hunt, a paper pie-plate running race, where each child is given two pie-plates and must place each foot on one of these instead of on the ground, are all very exciting.

Children love games but a small child's interest span is short. Ten or fifteen minutes is a long enough game period for most youngsters. Certain games lying down help them flatten their backs and pull in their abdomens. If there are two or three children in the family who can all have exercises and games at the same time, this helps to keep up their interests.

Let them pretend they are "Elastic Men" stretching arms and legs in difficult directions! Another plan is to be Paper Dolls pasted on the floor. A mother may be quite surprised to discover how expertly a child can pedal a bicycle, lying flat on the floor, hands above the head, chin drawn in and feet pedalling in the air.

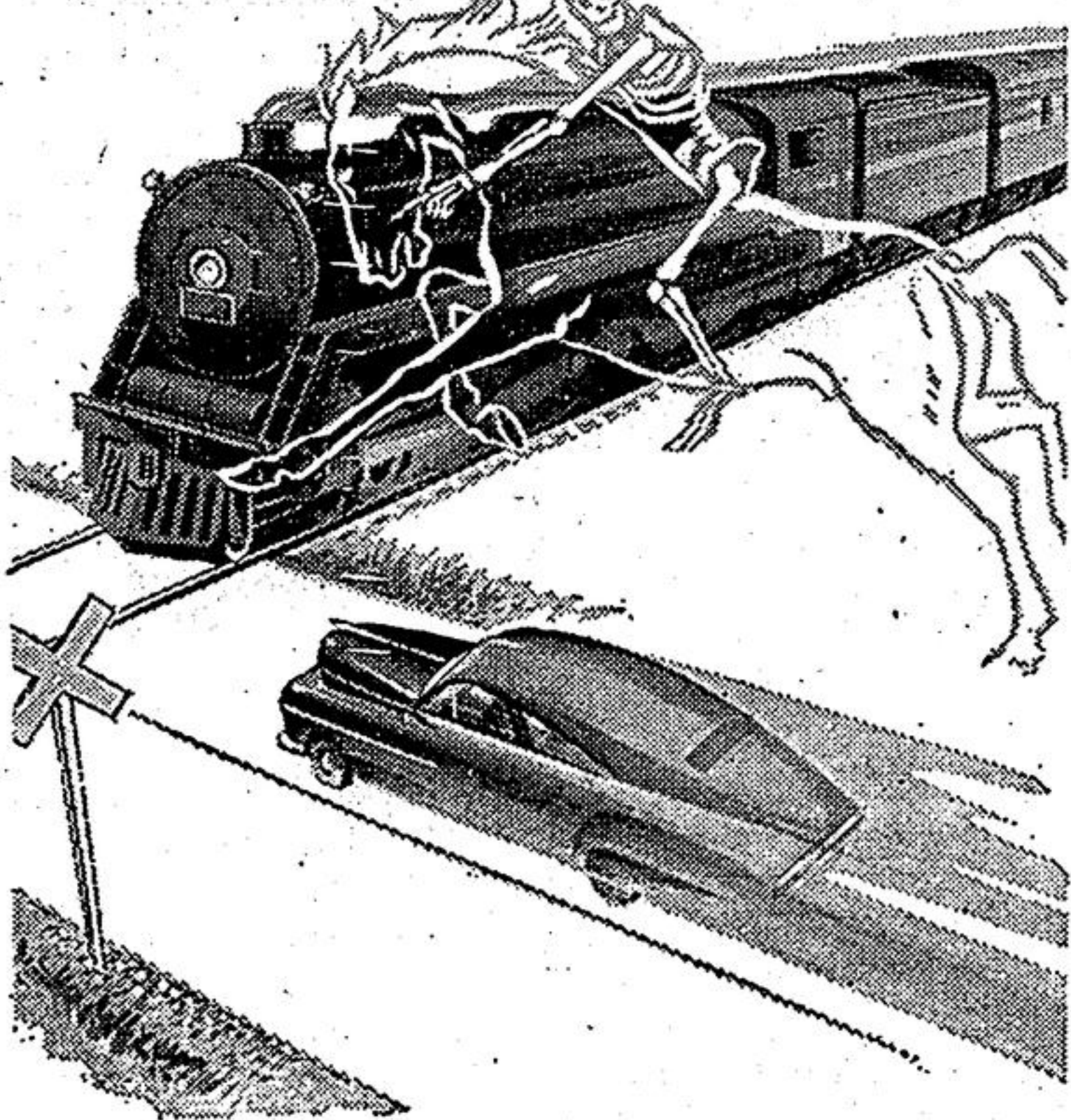
Vacation time with more leisure provides the opportunities to try new games and invent some of your own—vigorous play out of doors is a wonderful aid to good health—for parents as well as children. This summer start on your own family's Games Book and try out as many new ideas as you like.

"Pakistan shows a treasury surplus for its third year." We should not be too critical of Pakistan, however. It is a new nation and hasn't yet learned modern ways. Give it a few years more, and it will probably have a national debt which it can point to with pride.

Contrary to common belief natural gas pipelines seldom help develop new industries in the districts through which they run. But they greatly aid the expansion of existing industries.

The reason so many people know very little about what's going on in the world is that this information isn't included in comic strips.

This is no time for a Race!



The unseen figure of Death rides beside the motorist who races a train to a level crossing. The way may look clear, and there may seem to be a split second in which to avert calamity. Unfortunately for many of the 140 who were killed and the 549 who were injured in 443 railway crossing accidents in Canada in the 12-month period ended June 30th last, the train was moving faster than

they judged, or they were closer to the point of impact than they imagined and they paid a high price for their impatience. The old rule of STOP, LOOK and LISTEN applies with more force than ever today when more automobiles and trucks are on the road. Make sure you have a clear path over the crossing; obey the signs placed there for your protection. It's better to be delayed a minute than to be killed or maimed.

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