

The Stouffville Tribune

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OUR EDITORIAL COMMENT

Local Civil Defence Program Travelling a Rocky Road

The term Civil Defence, a so-called program organized to protect the human race in case of disaster has lost almost entirely the real meaning behind its initial purpose. Instead of being considered in a serious vein, it is now the subject of verbal criticisms and jocular barbs. Its promoters appear to be fighting for a lost cause in their efforts to impress on the minds of the Canadian people, the seriousness of their mission. Perhaps it is these same promoters who are defeating their own purposes.

Too often we have read where officers within the Civil Defence organization have blasted the project itself. A number of officials, both local and of greater authority have submitted their resignations. The entire program, from a reader's point of view appears to be caught up in a whirlpool of red tape, indecision and contradiction. It is almost a civil war within the civil defence.

The A-bomb and the H-bomb, to the average man on the street is still a destructive force that cannot be

fathomed in terms of its true power. Recently, Mr. Daniell-Jenkins, local Pickering Twp. co-ordinator, suggested that each and every resident should give serious consideration to the erection of private back-yard "fall-out" shelters. We would contend that the news story was received with nothing more than a cynical smile by our readers.

The most recent obstacle tossed in the path of local C.D., was the withdrawal of Ontario County Council from the entire scheme. Civil Defence heads have expressed amazement at the move, but really, what did they expect? Except, perhaps on paper, one can see little or no accomplishments for either the money or time expended. As one committee member stated "the entire set-up is in a dreadful mess." We think he hit the nail right on the head. What we would like to know is — what use is being made of our Civil Defence funds? That's one piece of information that might prove more interesting to our readers than back-yard "fall-out" shelters.

Few Complaints on Christmas Mail Service

No persons receive more vivid reminders of the nearness of the Christmas season than our local postal employees and mail carriers. It is they who must bear the burden of our annual card-catering custom. It is possible that they look forward to the festive occasion with some apprehension and watch it pass with some relief. After watching the deluge of mail that daily entered the Stouffville office prior to Dec. 25th, it is little wonder the staff is ready for a well-earned rest.

For some unknown reason, Stouffville's Post Office took on a strange new and unfamiliar appearance this Christmas season. Although stamp sales broke existing records, the usual lineups at the

wickets were unusually small. The mail was sorted and delivered with little or no apparent confusion. Few complaints were heard.

Although it may be difficult to pin-point the exact reason behind the improved service, we feel that better working conditions may have been, at least partially responsible. Employees and customers have at least room "to breathe", something that was lacking in the previous cramped quarters. The side entrance to the individual boxes has alleviated the pedestrian congestion that once prevailed at the front door. We have not always felt that the renovation of buildings has solved many problems, but in the case of the local Post Office, it appears to have been a step in the right direction.

No Time To Rest

A growing community gives its elected and appointed officials no time to rest. No sooner is one set of problems accounted for than others pose themselves on the horizon. This coming year will be no exception for Stouffville's council, utilities commission and planning board. With the momentous task of the sewer installation completed, one might have expected that council could take a breather, so to speak — but such is not to be the case.

Largest order of business which looms for the 1960 council, is undoubtedly, annexation. While plans are already underway, the main business of such a project remains for the coming year. Coupled with this growth, will be the matter of expanding the local disposal plant. While it will no doubt not be necessary to have such an extension this year, some thought must likely be given to it for the near future.

For Planning Board, there is the continual pressure of new subdivisions, both for commercial and resi-

dential use. Such pressure will become even more acute when annexation arrives.

The Public Utilities Commission, too, faces major projects in 1960. There is the expansion of the water-works system, just lately begun, and the erection of the Commission's new building.

These extensions and additions, and the cost involved, as well as the work for town officers, is the price that must be paid if our community is to expand. At the beginning of another year let us be thankful that we have citizens who are willing to assume the responsibilities of handling these problems. True, they will be criticized, but on the other hand, much that is good, will also be accomplished. Being a member of a public board is much akin to operating a newspaper. One can always be sure that the board or the newspaper which sits back and does nothing, will receive little criticism. At the same time it will receive few bouquets for accomplishment.

"It's Later Than You Think"

We were much impressed recently by the words of the president of one of the largest advertising agencies in the country. He made an address which seems to us to have a lot of real food for thought in it. A part of this talk was as follows:

"This period in America is the high tide of mediocrity, the great era of the 'goof-off', the age of the half-done job. The land from coast to coast has been enjoying a stampede away from responsibility.

"It is populated by waiters who won't serve, and carpenters who will come around some day maybe, with executives whose minds are on the golf course, with students who take cinch courses because the hard ones

make them think, with spiritual delinquents of all kinds, who have triumphantly determined to enjoy what was known until the present crisis as 'the new leisure'.

"We may lack a few of Rome's refinements in its final decadence but we do have the two-hour lunch, the three-day weekend and the all-day coffee break. The Russians are doing a wonderful job as the barbarians in our historical drama. But we are far out-doing them in our superlative imitation of Rome.

"Unquestionably we are in a battle for survival. We must get our people into the battle. But first we have to get some battle into the people."

LAFF OF THE WEEK



"I suppose I should have saved some of those eggs you cracked in your boss's hat last night . . ."

Sugar and Spice

By BILL SMILEY

When you write a weekly column, and Christmas is upon you and you are just getting over the flu, and it's too late to do anything sensible except hit the sack, Satan lurks. "Ah," he smirks, "why don't you reprint one from last Christmas? They would never know the difference."

Shortly after Old Nick has said his piece, and the sinister sweetness of the idea is soaking in, another advocate speaks up. From the bottom of the stairs, the Old Lady suggests: "Why don't you reprint an old Christmas column? Aren't you ever coming to bed? Nobody has time to read it, anyway, around Christmas. Besides, they'd never remember they'd read it before. After all, it's not exactly deathless prose, you know."

I am proud to say that I sent them both on their way. Not that it wasn't a fine idea, if I'd had it myself. But I'll frequent the company of Old Nick when I feel like a filch, not when he does. And I'm too stubborn to admit that my wife has ever had a good idea in her entire existence.

It's difficult to write something sincere and original about Christmas, because there is one story, repeated every year, that makes every other piece of literature about Christmas look feeble in comparison. So this year, I'm going to make it simple, and just say "Merry Christmas," to a whole lot of people.

At a rough guess, there are about 250,000 people who read this column. At a dime each for cards, and tuppence apiece for stamps, it would cost me \$30,000 to send you all a card. After careful study, I decided not to do it. It isn't that I don't have the money. It's just the thought of licking all those stamps.

Obviously, it's pretty cheap to drop from \$30,000 to a mere "Merry Christmas to one and all" in my column. So I'll have to single out a few, with the hope that they'll repeat it to all their friends.

So, it's "Best Wishes" to all my friends in the weekly newspaper business. Just for example: Fearless George Cadogan of the Durham Chronicle and his wife Elda; Gene Macdonald of the Gleggery News, the last of the big-time spenders; Pete and Lella Hvidsten of Uxbridge, the night-owls who publish the Times-Journal; Don McCuaig of the Renfrew Advertiser, biggest hunting and fishing liar north of the Rio Grande; Rev. John McNabb and Allison of the Alliston Herald, a clear case of the pulpit's gain being the newspapers' loss. And all you other characters.

To all the public relations boys who have suffered my presence with amiable, slightly frozen smiles, on occasion. Just for example: Ron Everson, whose poetry is as impeccable as his manners, as witty as his talk, as shaggy and interesting as his eyebrows; Tommy Lee, the last soft-spoken mayor in Canada; Paul Gormley, the most elaborately-disguised beatnik north of the St. Lawrence Seaway. And all the rest of you characters.

To those retired gentlemen whose letters are a great pleasure to receive, whose criticisms and encouragement are salutary and warming. Just for example: William Graham, retired railroader, of Winnipeg, for his blasts of fresh air; Hugh Ferguson, former newspaperman, of Florida, for his clippings and comments; Andrew Galloway, retired banker, of Toronto, for

Keeping Records Pays Off

"Cash operating expenses on Ontario's family farms range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. This fact alone points out the importance of keeping and analyzing farm records," says Jack Clark of the Farm Economics Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

The best way to keep farm records is with an annual account book. From the analysis of this book you can pick out the weak points and correct them, making changes for a more profitable operation next year.

If you don't belong to a farm management association and there isn't one in your county, Clark suggests sending the account books in to the Economics Department at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, for analysis.

"Records are of no value unless they are kept accurately and analyzed at the end of each year," states Clark.

Timely Tips

Tractor Tire Punctures— Ever puncture a tire that contains liquid for extra weight? Jack up the wheel and turn the puncture to the top. This will save most of the liquid.

Dairy Calves for Beef— With high beef prices, many dairymen might find a profitable market for any extra forage and labor they have by keeping their bull calves and feeding them out to slaughter weights, says livestock experts with the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture. Or, if you're short of feed and building space, you might sell them as yearling steers. Both these programs will probably be quite profitable until prices for choice steers get down to \$20 and \$21 per hundredweight.

Electric Hand Saws— When using an electric saw, choose the right blade for the material to be sawed, advises Hal Wright, safety expert with the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Use only sharp blades and don't force the saw. If the motor stalls, pull back the saw before starting it again.

Better Tractor Operation— For quick tractor engine warm-up and operating efficiency in the winter, try covering the radiator with a blanket or burlap bags, say agricultural engineers with the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Remove the wrapping when the engine becomes warm. To cut out condensation in the fuel system, fill the fuel tank at night and run the engine until the carburetor is filled with fresh fuel.

FOR PARENTS ONLY

CALENDARS IN THE HOME

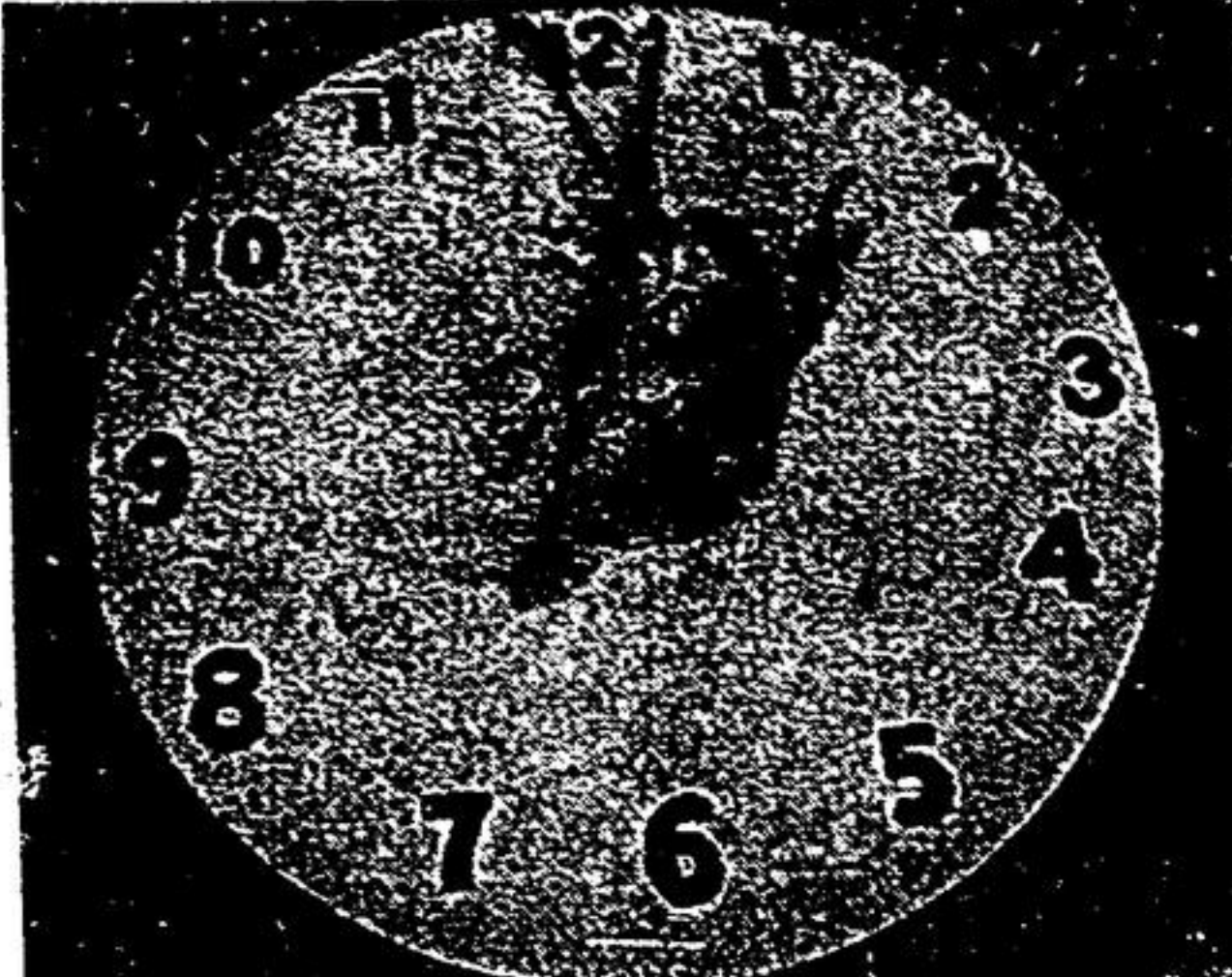
Take time to think, it is the source of power. Take time to play, it is the secret of perpetual youth. Take time to read, it is the fountain of wisdom. Take time to love and be loved, it is a God-given privilege. Take time to be friendly, it is the road to happiness. Take time to laugh, it is the music of the soul. Take time to give, it is too short a day to be selfish. Take time to work, it is the price of success.

How children enjoy the hanging of the new calendars on January First! They have such attractive pictures in such lovely colors! Let them help you as you carefully extract a calendar from its container, which has been mailed in a cardboard tube. Take them along with you when you pick up a calendar from some of the stores or the bank which you patronize. A small child loves to help you choose the place on the walls where the new calendars are to hang.

Before throwing out your last year's calendars, take a second look at them. Is there one which you like well enough to frame? Perhaps there is a picture or two you could put away to take to your summer cottage. If woodwork is a hobby of one of the members of the family and there is a fretsaw in good repair, why not glue one of the smaller attractive pictures onto a piece of plywood, make a puzzle design on the back, and cut out the pieces? Even a puzzle pasted on heavy cardboard can provide good times for little fingers!

Children like to pull off the page at the end of each month, as well as take down the old calendars. The numbers can be pasted on colored cardboard cards and Mother can play a game with Junior while he learns his numbers. "Snap" and "Find the Numbers" can be played by cutting out a set of cards and pasting a large number from a calendar in the centre of each. A simplified domino game can easily be devised.

A large calendar on the kitchen wall, where the schedule in connection with such chores as washing dishes is marked down at the first of each week, saves many a hot argument. It also is a good place to jot down plans for a family "spree" such as



MAGIC HOUR . . . The hour of 12 p. m. becomes a magic moment when it welcomes in a New Year. Traditionally, it is a time of gaiety and happiness and probably for longer than most of us can remember, photographers have taken advantage of the occasion to picture a pretty girl in a pose similar to the one above. Happy New Year, to one and all!



Another year—another start. For some reason, these four words seem to symbolize the thoughts of most of us when we take the "old" calendar down from the wall and hang up the "new." As far as most of us are concerned, the old year is "dead" and we need only concern ourselves with today and tomorrow.

Another year, another start. Nothing could be more truer. But, it is not a start from nowhere, or from nothing. We begin this New Year with the experience and knowledge that we gained in the Old—and in the Older years before that.

We like to picture the New Year as a babe, bright-eyed and energetic, brimming with confidence and enthusiasm, quite a contrast to the bearded old man with a scythe who waited out the last minute of the Old Year. This change in symbols is fair enough, because it is a new thing, and a new opportunity—simply because it gives us the chance to try again, to do better. So, before we forget this Old Year completely, let us look backward with an appraising eye. We change the calendar with the New Year, but we cannot wipe the slate clean—not in the truest sense. We ourselves do not change. Except for the fact that we are a bit older—and should be a bit wiser—we are the same individuals that we were 365 days ago when we were wondering (as we do now) what the New Year would "bring us."

Welcome to the New Year, and to the time that it will provide for doing bigger and greater things. Welcome the chance—the opportunity—to make the effort for progress and improvement; but at the same time be thankful for the success and the failure that we knew in the year that is departed. If we lived the Old Year wisely, then perhaps we are prepared to make the most of the New.

"Happy New Year" In All Languages

Nowadays it is possible to buy greeting cards which extend New Year wishes in several languages. This modern development is a convenience for those who send greetings to friends in the "old country" wherever that country happens to be.

Should you be sending a card to friends in Paris, the greeting would be "Bonne Annee!" In Spanish, the greeting is "Feliz Ano Nuevo!" and in sunny Italy, "Buon Capod'Anno!"

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(Lesson for January 3)
LAUNCHING OUT ON A WORLD MISSION.
Acts 13

GOLDEN TEXT — And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations. Luke 24:47

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE
Approach to the Lesson
Acts 13 marks another turning point in the early history of the church. It is appropriate that we study it on the first Sunday of the new year.

The Lord Jesus had told His disciples that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, they would be His witnesses in ever-widening geographical areas (1:18). Now the third, final area is reached: "unto the uttermost part of the earth." The Gospel message is no longer confined to the borders of Palestine and Syria. A missionary team is sent forth to reach the world with the message of redemption.

The way had been paved for this forward step. Peter's vision on the housetop had made it clear that "unclean" Gentiles as well as "clean" Jews were to receive the Gospel. The subsequent conversion of Cornelius, Gentile household (10:44-48) had proved that this was the divine plan. Moreover, the persecution of believers in Jerusalem had scattered the saints northward into the midst of the Gentiles (11:19, 20). A church had been established in Antioch of Syria, a predominantly Gentile city (11:26). Believers there had been grounded in the Word of God and given an insight into the world's desperate need of Christ.

The very men to move out into new territories were at hand. Barnabas was famed for his powers of exhortation. Saul was a pioneer preacher, teacher, and theologian. John Mark, related to Barnabas (Col. 4:10), seemed qualified as an assistant (Acts 13:5). All that was needed was the command of the Spirit of God (13:2), and a far-reaching

venture of faith would be launched. The Heart of the Lesson
Antioch in Syria was an important strategic center. Its population was large. The opportunity it afforded for Gospel preaching was immense. Surely more workers for God were needed in the city. Yet "the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul . . ."
Acts 13 teaches us basic lessons concerning the world mission of the church. First, God's plan is not that His witnesses should concentrate indefinitely in large communities, but that they should press out into new fields "white . . . to harvest."
Second, the pagan religions of Cyprus, Pamphylia, and Cilicia were no substitute for the saving Gospel of Christ. The believers in Antioch had no use for the pleasant but false adage, "Let everyone get to heaven in his own way."
Third, the sponsor of true world missions is the Holy Spirit. He enlarges the vision of the saints, summons them to action, calls out and commissions His workers (13:2), and seals the missionary enterprise with His blessing.
Fourth, the sending agency, which remains at home, must consist of men of prayer, consecration, genuine interest in the work, and spiritual power.
Fifth, the theme of the missionary message is ever the same. Note Paul's careful use of the Scriptures (verses 17-22), his fearless presentation of Christ (verses 23-37), his insistence that through the Lord Jesus are found forgiveness of sins and justification (verses 38, 39), and his passionate plea to his hearers (verses 40, 41).
Sixth, faithful heralds of the Cross may expect satanic opposition (verses 8-11), a divided reaction (verses 42-48), and possibly actual persecution (v. 50).
Seventh, in spite of all odds, nothing brings more sheer joy than the Gospel of Christ (v. 52).
Your chances of safety are better in an auto that won't start than in one that won't stop at the proper time.
To paperhangers there should always be rooms for improvement.

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