

Tribune has changed a lot over the years

The Tribune of the late 19th century was a very different paper from its modern counterpart, and much of its coverage consisted of news and information from abroad as well as local events. Anecdotes, jokes and advertisements of 'miracle' cures for various ailments were liberally interspersed with more serious editorials covering topics from politics to women's fashion and general conduct.

Fashion has often been accused of being frivolous and self-indulgent, but the modern woman is an amateur compared with her ancestor. The writer of Women and their Victims in the Nov. 30, 1888 edition obviously takes a very dim view of his female contemporaries. "It was hoped some time ago that the fashion of wearing dead bodies of birds for trimmings for bonnets and hats was going out," he writes. "Such a hope apparently, is doomed to disappointment."

The author goes on at some length, lamenting the cruelty inflicted on innocent birds by thoughtless pursuers of haute couture. He concludes: "Is it

really, then, come to this: that a 19th century woman is so utterly selfish, so hopelessly without brains or feeling, and so incapable of learning even the very elements of humanity, that she must and will have birds to adorn herself with at whatever cost? At bottom it really is want of intellect."

A kinder view of women is taken by Dr. Calvin S. Blackwell quoted in an article from December 7, 1888. To the question 'why do fewer men go to church than women?' he replied, "Men stay away from church because they are worse than women. They are grosser, they lack the finesse of the feminine nature, they are not so holy in tendency. A man can dissipate all Saturday night, lie under cover through Sunday, and appear at his office Monday with a head as big as a flour barrel — and nothing is said."

But let his female typewriter do the same thing and he says: 'you may go.' The result of so much liberty during the week is that by the time Sunday comes around a man's conscience is too sore to go to church and have it pricked." According to

Dr. Calvin, "The Sabbath hasn't the same holy separateness from other days it has to women, who are more removed from business."

For a woman seeking advice on improving her appearance, the January 11, 1889 edition has some interesting guidelines. "No cosmetics are so capable of enhancing beauty as the smile of good temper and a desire to please," we are told, "beauty of expression is, more than any other form of loveliness, capable of cultivation. A woman may not have perfectly regular features but her face will be so lit up with beauty of goodness that she cannot fail to please if she strives to obey the spirit of some such rules as the following, which may be multiplied or diminished according to particular cases."

Among the rules are "Remember that, valuable as is the gift of speech, silence is often more valuable" and "Be gentle and firm with children." Of the latter, the writer notes, "The last rule refers to children, but often a husband is far more difficult to manage. If,



Susan Berry is the Tribune's retail advertising representative. A former teacher, Susan plans to move to Stouffville from Aurora.

however, a wife can keep her temper, and persevere in her efforts to please, she will in the end conquer by kindness."

Finally, under the heading "Wine, Women and Song" from December 14, 1888 some advice from our sponsors: "...women respond to every active power and sentiment of the human mind when in good health. But when afflicted with

disease you will find them tantalizing, coquettish, cross and hard to please. For all 'female complaints' sick headache, irregularities, nervousness, prolapsus and other displacements popularly known as 'female weakness' and other diseases, peculiar to the sex, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the great world-famed remedy."

Longtime dealer still going strong

When Neil Patrick bought his dealership in Stouffville 33 years ago, horses and buggies could still be seen on the town's Main St.

Patrick, who had been a travelling district manager for General Motors, never dreamed he'd ever have his own business. He had just given in his notice prior to having a conversation with Ethel Mole, a widowed friend of his wife's.

She asked Patrick if he would consider taking over her Pontiac-Buick dealership in Stouffville, which was founded by her husband.

"I knew I couldn't buy the front door, let alone the entire dealership," Patrick laughed. "But Ethel assured me that it would be easier than I thought."

Patrick and his family moved to Stouffville, from Woodbridge, living over the original dealership, located on the corner of the Ninth Line and Main Street, until 1968 when he moved to his present location on Main St. West.

Patrick has since been joined by his two sons, Ken and Ron, who have taken on active roles with their father who remains owner and president of the company.

Ken is general manager, while his younger brother, Ron, heads the dealership's office and bookkeeping department.

According to Ken, the dealership sells over 400 new Buicks, Pontiacs and GMC trucks annually, along with 200 used cars and trucks. The company employs 24 people full-time to keep up with the work load.

Patrick has joined forces with the York Region Board of Education, hiring one co-op student each year. For the past four years the appointed students have learned the techniques employed in dealer's bodyshop. This fall the chosen student will work in the bookkeeping department.

Ken explained that employees, both on the sales floor and in the back, continually take courses to update themselves on innovations in the car industry.

"Our mechanics are a major part of our operation," Ken explained. "We have a complete bodyshop and offer a refinishing service for all automobile models."

Neil Patrick GM operates a leasing company, too, leasing over 400 units annually, both on long and short terms.

"Individual leasing, rather than purchasing a car or truck, is becoming very popular because of the low down payment," Ken explained. "Leasing makes it easier for people to have a new car."

Ken explained that with the

recent technology and advances in the automobile industry people are able to hang on to their cars longer.

"The electrical and mechanical systems are improved, as well as fuel injection. Cars are also smaller for better performance and gas mileage. Today's cars give people less problems and last longer," Ken said.



Overview of the car lot at Neil Patrick Motors, located in Stouffville. In top photo, Neil Patrick

(center) is pictured here with his two sons, Ken (left) and Ron.