



## Wise, Unwise and . . . Otherwise

— BY —  
"THE OLD OWL"

### THE LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

IN THE CURRENT ISSUE of Maclean's Magazine there is an article under the above heading written by John Keats, an American from Maryland who spent two years in rural Ontario, and whose children went to school here. He compares the Ontario rural school with the city school in Maryland and greatly prefers the Ontario school. Some of his criticisms of the Maryland School might possibly apply to an Ontario city school or rural central school. I do not know, and do not wish to arouse any controversy. All I want to do is to summarize his remarks, bringing out the good points of our system, matters which I think would apply to any school, central or otherwise.

Here, then, are his points: (1) The Ontario School teaches seven-year-olds to write and also requires homework of all students. The Maryland school does neither. (2) You stay in the lower grade if you do not pass. In Maryland you move whether you pass or not. (3) The class stands when the teacher enters. In Maryland the idea is "Let us learn together." Here is a quotation: (The Ontario School) "suggested that perhaps the reason the children were in school was that their position was subordinate; that the teacher knew something and that they didn't; that she therefore merited respect and that it was the duty of the children to be respectful." (4) He states that the children learned many things they would not have learned in "the impersonal million-dollar cement factory of a consolidated school they had known in Maryland" and that they returned to Maryland "far ahead of their classmates in every subject." (5) The idea that education involved hard work and discipline was quite new to these American children. Here they were taught that learning is the children's work. Over there that "learning is fun". In the Ontario school, also, they learned "what people could do for one another when they found themselves in a situation where nothing was being done for them by anyone else". (6) In the Ontario school history is taught as a sort of salmagundi (what is that?) called Social Studies. (7) In the Ontario school "our children absorbed and retained more information . . . than they were ever asked to absorb in Maryland". He illustrates this by stating that his 2nd grade daughter had to write "essays" while in Maryland 12th grade pupils were still learning to make sentences. (8) He points out that in the Ontario school the teacher is expected to teach a prescribed lesson but in Maryland "you will hear teachers asking the class 'What shall we learn today?'".

He concluded that the "Little Red Schoolhouse" lacked most of the facilities demanded in U.S. city schools but does a much better job of education. Some of his criticisms might apply to Canadian city or central schools, I do not know. Also, I do not think that the one room rural school is exactly suited to this present time in which we are living. But I do think he is right in what seems to me to be his fundamental idea, namely, that the school is a place for discipline and work — not a pseudo-democratic process. This idea, it seems to me, is applicable in the city or central school just as much as in the one room school. Let us have central schools if they are better, but let us hold fast the Canadian idea of a somewhat rugged educational process and not be seduced by the siren call of our neighbours for an "easy" way. There is no easy way, learning is work.

can give only one-eighth of her time to any one of the grades. In a graded school (with several rooms) one teacher can devote her whole time to the educational needs of the class, and the school day instead of 75 minutes.

This program was brought to a virtual stop in the early 1950's, because of the influence of certain high-ranking politicians, some of whom profess a love of the "Little Red School House". It is gratifying that very recently the consolidated movement has begun again and the minister of education has spoken very favorably of the program. The one room school has served its time very well, because the times did not demand a very good education. Relatively few of its graduates went on to High School, and considerably fewer to University. Because those who did reach university level were in themselves exceptional people, the one room school has had a largely undeserved reputation as a very good place to get a basic education. If it were ever true now, which we doubt, it is not true now. It stands to reason that if a teacher has up to eight grades in a school she

can give only one-eighth of her time to any one of the grades. In a graded school (with several rooms) one teacher can devote her whole time to the educational needs of the class, and the school day instead of 75 minutes.

Central schools depend on good roads and rapid transportation, which are available in this Township. While it is probable that a central school will reduce costs, particularly in capital cost requirements, it is disposed of there is no good reason to believe that a central school would increase costs appreciably. We have, in fact, seen estimates for the North Walpole Area from a reliable source that indicate to us that a maximum increase in taxes of \$5 to \$10 a year would face the taxpayers. For this outlay the area would have modern up-to-date school facilities of which they would well be proud. The increase in taxes we have suggested is based entirely on the current tax rate. It is apparent to us that the taxes in North Walpole for school purposes, under the present system, will increase in any event because the present buildings will require major renovation as the years go on.

If the people of North Walpole want to continue the present school system that is their business but we have no hesitation in saying it doesn't make very good sense to us in the interests of present day educational requirements — nor economically. Centralization of the area simply has to be cheaper in the long run. We are prompted to make these observations mainly because of the terrific rebuff received by the North Walpole Board eight years ago. We think it will not be long until their judgement, at that time, will be completely vindicated.

Having represented the Electors of the Township of Walpole for the past Seven years as Councillor, Deputy Reeve and Reeve, I again respectfully solicit your continued loyal support and influence at the polls on Monday, December 2nd for the important office of

REEVE

EDWARD MONTAGUE

TO THE RATEPAYERS OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF WALPOLE

Having served three years as Councillor and four years as Deputy Reeve, I respectfully solicit your support and influence for

THE OFFICE OF REEVE

If elected, I shall endeavour to serve the best interests of the citizens of Walpole.

Polls open 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday, Dec. 2

HARVEY BASSINDALE

YOUR SUPPORT AND INFLUENCE

is respectfully solicited by

HUGH GREENFIELD

for the important office of

DEPUTY REEVE

OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WALPOLE

If elected, it will be my aim to serve the best interests of ALL Electors to the best of my ability

YOUR VOTE AND INFLUENCE

is respectfully solicited for the office of

DEPUTY REEVE

CLARENCE HARVEY

— Six Years Council Experience —

WALPOLE ELECTORS

FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS

RE-ELECT

COUNCILLOR

BRUCE MEEHAN

WALPOLE MUNICIPAL ELECTORS

I respectfully solicit your support for the

position of

COUNCILLOR

on December 2nd

MARC STEPHENSON

## TENDERS

TENDERS will be received by the undersigned until 12 O'clock Noon on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 1963 for the SALE of the old TOWNSHIP SCHOOL at Garnet, off No. 6 Highway.

The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

The Township of Walpole  
CHARLES COX,  
Clerk, Treasurer

YOUR SUPPORT AND INFLUENCE  
IS RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED FOR  
SCHOOL TRUSTEE  
OF NORTH WALPOLE SCHOOL AREA

— by —  
JACK PHIBBS

It has been my privilege to serve you in capacity for the past Eight years and if elected, I will continue to serve in the best interests of ALL Electors.

RE-ELECT

MARTIN

FOR TRUSTEE

IN NORTH WALPOLE SCHOOL AREA

If elected on December 2nd I will endeavour to seek the wishes of the Ratepayers & vote of the people on this troublesome school problem and fulfill the wishes of the majority.

— DOUG MARR

YOUR SUPPORT IS SOLICITED FOR

SCHOOL TRUSTEE

OF NORTH WALPOLE SCHOOL AREA

HAROLD WILSON

If elected I will serve the Electors to the best of my ability

I respectfully solicit your support and influence for the office of

COUNCILLOR

FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WALPOLE

Having served for the past four years, I will endeavour to continue to serve the best interests of the taxpayers at all times

BLAKE FIELD

YOUR SUPPORT AND INFLUENCE  
IS RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED BY

HAROLD NIE

FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR  
for the Township of Walpole for the year 1964

ELECTION DAY MONDAY DECEMBER 2

If Elected, I will serve to the best of my ability

## OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

From the Record's Correspondents

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. McBurney spent a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Peter Anbeck of Hamilton.

Mr. Jack Cairns (nee Dorothy Eubank) and family of Ingleton, were visiting relatives in this district on Saturday.

Mr. Harold Wren and son Kevin were unfortunately involved in a car accident at Wilton on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Wren returned to his home that evening but Kevin is still a patient in St. George's Hospital, Hamilton, requiring a little extra care.

Mr. George Kline and daughter, Miss Marjorie Kline, of Toronto were week end guests at Mr. and Mrs. James Campbell at Nelles Corners.

Mr. and Mrs. George Roth, Regina, visited Mr. and Mrs. Wren on Saturday night. Mr. and Mrs. Wren and Susan moved to Hagersville on Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wren attended the Christmas Eve service at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lindsay was taken by ambulance to the General Hospital on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Person gave a Chalk Talk on Sunday evening at the Bethel Baptist Church in Simcoe.

Mr. Leslie Keen visited her sister, Mrs. George Waterhouse in Hamilton.

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## WEDDING

(Continued from page 2)

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Miesner were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Werner on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Werner and family of Hagersville visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Werner on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wilson, Mrs. Richard Rushton, Mrs. Albert Pond, Mrs. Ralph Townson, Mrs. Bert Jenson, Mrs. Ames Bartlett and Mrs. Geo. Starnum all attended the Lucky

Roll call was answered on Armistice.

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## SANDUSKY

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