

Never Take Advice From A Poet

"Gin-and-water", Lord Byron once revealed, "is the source of all my inspiration."

This rule-of-thumb may indeed have wrought all those lyrical delights from the pen of the 19th Century poet. But times, as they say, are a-changin', and now we realize that inspiration can spring from such unlikely sources as common sense

and charity towards one's fellow man.

Take the holiday party-giver. The thought of a non-alcoholic get-together probably makes him cringe, because no one wants to be a killjoy.

Since the Hamilton Automobile Club has long accepted this reality, it offers some special guidelines for holiday

celebrations. Far from labeling you as a wet blanket (a commodity especially undesirable during the winter months) some of them will even enhance your image as an innovator.

Many of the nation's traffic fatalities are reported to be the result of drunken driving. Don't allow your guests to run this kind of

risk. In other words, be "First A friend - Then A Host."

Since you should have lots of food on hand throughout the evening, why not try some of the succulent new dishes featured at this time of year in several mass magazines? Look especially for recipes with starchy ingredients. Your friends will like this imaginative touch, and you may even come up with an edible conversation piece.

Be different - change your food service pattern. At large parties, one group always seems to congregate in the kitchen. Tempting trays of snacks should be placed strategically here as well.

Experiment with non-alcoholic or less potent

beverages and serve them in eye-appealing carafes or topped with slices of fruit in punch bowls along with the hard stuff at your self-service bar. (The latter is a far preferable way to serve drinks, since guests who mix their own concoctions usually make them weaker.) Spanish sangria, so in vogue now, is just as attractive and delicious with the brandy omitted. And always remember, don't push drinks on your guests, especially those who are driving, just to prove you're a "generous" host.

A good rule for any successful get-together, notable those where alcohol is served, is to keep people circulating. That fellow

slouched in a chair with drink in hand may look comfortable, but he'll keep a clearer head if he moves about a bit. Those holiday magazine editions can be of help in this category, too, by tuning you in to some of the latest party games. Failing that, charades may be old hat, but once into this zany game, even those reluctant to play at first wind-up having a good time. And, of course, all this group activity helps keep everyone's mind off the bar.

Few will notice an embargo on drinks an hour before the festivities end if you bedazzle them with a rich dessert. Coffee, of course, should be served at this time, so why not make it more tempting by coming up with a variation - a mug of savoury Mexican coffee with a cinnamon stick stirrer is hard to resist. Contrary to accepted belief, coffee isn't a sobering drink, but while guests are drinking it, they're not having "one for the road."

If, in spite of your efforts, one of your motoring friends should overimbibe, let someone else take him home, or ring up a cab. As a last resort, have an extra bed available and invite him to stay the night.

And finally - never, never invite the likes of George Gordon Byron.

Rare Outings

CALGARY (CP) - Both the young and the old enjoy the zoo - so what could be better than a see-the-zoo project that brings the two together.

During the summer, 75 teenagers volunteered their time to usher groups of senior citizens around the Calgary zoo in wheelchairs - and they turned into rare outings that both the teen-agers and more than 900 senior citizens will long remember.

"Some of the older people I met hadn't been anywhere in almost three years and they were so thrilled to get out," said Susan Van Allen, 16, a Grade 12 student who took part in the program.

She'd like to see the program continued next summer and, if funds could be made available, to see it expanded.

"It would be really great if we could extend the program to include visits by crippled children."

The see-the-zoo project was co-ordinated by the Canadian Red Cross in Calgary and financed by a grant from the manpower and immigration department. High school students who volunteered received only 75 cents for lunch money and bus tickets.

The Red Cross office had to turn down many applications and were forced to schedule students for only two or three mornings a week to give as many as possible a chance to work.

"We were helping out," said Susan. "I think we were more highly rewarded working there than we would be working for a pay cheque in a factory for the summer."

She said she and the other "caddies" - as they called themselves - hadn't discovered any problems with the generation gap. She's gone back several times since to visit many new friends.

"Several of the people I met are all alone with no family and not even any distant relatives."

The Red Cross supplied the wheelchairs, which were extra-equipped with bright red-and-white sun umbrellas. Many of the visitors preferred to leave these down to "catch a little sun."

The caddies pushed their guests anywhere they chose for a one-hour visit. This often included a quick stop in the zoo's tea room, where the visitors more than once insisted on treating the caddy to an ice cream or cold drink.

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LITTLE SPORT



Competition Centre

VALCOURT, QUE. - Mysterious, intriguing, productive, out of the ordinary - this is the description of the

Bombardier competition centre located on the outskirts of Valcourt, Quebec, the home of the Ski-Doo snowmobile.

The centre is mysterious and intriguing to the average passer-by because of the tight security surrounding the buildings and grounds.

However, that security was lifted briefly Nov. 17, when more than 100 members of the North American press were invited to come and see how Bombardier builds its racing machines and trains its drivers to compete in one of the fastest rising sports in North America - professional snowmobile racing.

The competition centre, built on a stretch of land a half-mile wide and over two miles deep, is located next to the farmhouse where Joseph Armand Bombardier, the originator of the snowmobile, was born. The farm's surrounding landscape has changed dramatically in the last several years. The cow's favourite pasture is now a \$100,000 half-mile race track with a base of crushed marble to allow testing and development of machines the year round. The track is equipped with a full lighting system to allow for round the clock research as well as a digital timer set at 1/1000th of a second and operated electronically by photo electric cell to give accurate machine speeds, on the corners, straights, and the full track.

The barn, no longer used as a resting place for farmyard inhabitants, is an ultra-modern administration building in one section and a shop in the other. The shop is the modification and production area where the Ski-Doo factory racing machines are built, modified and experimented upon to put the safest, fastest and most innovated snowmobiles out on the professional racing circuit. The second storey of the building above the shop houses the draft boards and slide rules of the centre's staff of engineers, designers, technicians and draftsmen. This is where new ideas are tested before being built into the machines.

The competition centre, in existence for the last two years, employs 30 people and does extensive testing on production line models as well as racing machines. The grounds also contain a new research and development building which will be completed later this year.

Mr. Benson said a way must be found to help small business through a new tax system.

He emphasised the new tax system won't be perfect but a way to be more fair and equitable must be found for each Canadian but not slow the economy of the country.

In a question and answer period from the floor he fielded a question from Simcoe Mayor Alfred Judd who asked what the federal government intends to do to help give the municipalities a larger tax base from which to work?

Mr. Benson answered that it was the provinces responsibility to give the municipalities a larger tax base.

Mr. Judd also asked if the government is considering allowing municipal taxes to be deducted from income tax?

Mr. Benson replied he is opposed to municipal taxes being deducted from income tax.

Mr. Benson was also asked what measures he was relying on that would reduce unemployment in Canada over the next year.

He said he was basing this on a survey of an independent economist firm in Toronto that predicted there would be an upturn in the economy.

Mr. Benson said surtax would be continued until the end of 1971 but didn't think it would be used after that time.

He said the biggest costs to the government during the next decade will be the rising costs of health, welfare, care of the aged and education. A problem that will have to be carefully totalled and controlled as close as possible.

Mr. Benson was introduced to the meeting by Elmo Riddle and thanked by H. M. Jackson.

Benson

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to actual productivity of the country.

He said in an inflationary economy that 66 percent of Canadians who are not members of organized trade are the ones that suffer. He said 1971 will be a better year with full activity in the national product base and decline in unemployment.

He said new tax legislation - designed to bring as much revenue as the present system but not more - will be presented for legislation this spring and will be in force in 1972.

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