

Nanticoke News

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. William Meade on the birth of their baby girl born Jan. 31.

Cecil Hodges, Jim Hallam, Wray Dennis and Ernie Welt spent a couple of days ice fishing the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McAlpine and daughter Allison of Caledonia spent the past Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Thomson.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vokes and family spent Saturday in Port Rowan at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Vokes.

Several from Nanticoke attended the luncheon held in the Anglican Hall, Jarvis, on Thursday of the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Elliot and family of Williamsford Ont., spent the past weekend at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Howard Dennis.

On Feb. 1, the Foresters District Council met at the home of Mrs. Keith Banfield. The new officers for 1971 were installed by District Deputee Mrs. Gerald McKenzie.

Master Gregory McKenzie lunched with Mrs. Alta Saunders last Thursday before boarding the bus for Kindergarten.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Evans left the Village Friday afternoon to find a place where the snow wasn't blowing. They are going to try Caledonia for a couple of days.

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Lamb's Corners 4-H Club

The first meeting of the Lamb's Corners 4-H Club was held at the home of Joyce Sheppard on Feb. 6.

Births

DIVINE - Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Divine, RR 1, are happy to announce the birth of a son Michael Joseph on Tuesday Feb. 9 at Henderson General Hospital, Hamilton, a little brother for Bernadette, Maureen, Gregory, Patrick, Katherine, Timmy, Collette, and Shawn.

WARDLELL - George and Elayne (nee Church) wish to announce the arrival of their first son, Glenn George (seven lbs. 13 1/2 oz.) on Sat., Feb. 13, 1971 at Brantford General Hospital, first grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Church of Jarvis and ninth grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wardell of Port Dover.

BUCK - Mr. and Mrs. Marc Buck, (New Anderson) Jarvis, Ont., are happy to announce the birth of a son Shawn William on Feb. 7, at West Haldimand Hospital.

\$\$ And Good Sense

What's your next home going to look like - what's it going to cost? According to US Housing and Urban Development Secretary George Romney, the next ten years will see a revolution in housing construction "unmatched since man came out of caves and started building dwellings with their hands."

He attributed this to present construction methods which he said are pricing themselves out of the market in a period of soaring demands. Citing, for example, Romney said that the land cost rose 30 percent from \$2,675 to \$3,500 and the construction cost rose 21.7 percent from \$12,325 to \$15,000.

The biggest jump for the \$15,000 home came in monthly homeowners' expense, or the monthly payment for mortgage principle and interest. It rose more than 55 percent in the past three years, from \$87.30 a month to \$136.00.

Romney said that in 1980, two-thirds of the housing will be factory-produced, but "without having to trade union labor requirements of training."

He went on to say that financing costs will be reduced since builders can pass savings along to the homeowner - savings achieved by building in less time and because of a direct federal support stimulus and directives to private lenders "there will be a more stable mortgage market."

Land costs will also be lower through changes in state and local structures and may be affected by federal legislation on treatment of capital gain from land sales. Romney said "some type" of federal action may be taken if the areas do not change the present restrictive building codes.

Balmoral LA

The monthly meeting of the Community Baptist Balmoral Ladies Auxiliary was held at the home of Mrs. Robert Wilkins with a good number present.

The first part of the evening was spent cutting out butterflies to be used for the Crusaders on Friday night.

It was suggested by Mrs. Walter Irwin that the ladies of the Auxiliary should call at the Windsor Lodge in Hagersville and visit with the residents there sometime in the coming year, a date to be decided on later.

The box convener, Mrs. Warren Nauman gave her report on projects.

An all day quilting bee will be held in the basement on March 30 instead of March 25 with a pot-luck lunch at noon.

Mrs. W. Irwin brought the devotions concerning God's love in the Christian life.

In closing Mrs. Irwin read the hymn "Have Thine Own Way Lord" and gave a reading of the life story of Adelaide Pollard who wrote the hymn, which was very interesting and enjoyed by all.

The meeting closed with prayer by Mrs. Lila Slot.

WIDE PROTECTION
EDMONTON (CP) - Dr. J. P. Best, head of Alberta's veterinary inspection services, says that during the last few years the program has provided protection for more than \$600 worth of livestock for every dollar spent. This works out to a cost of only 0.25 percent of the value of every animal inspected.

PAYING JOBS
TORONTO (CP) - Toronto board of education approved a plan whereby some vocational students will spend one day a week at paying jobs. The plan is designed to let youngsters help with the financial situation at home without dropping out of school. Jobs are generally related to their vocational school work.

SCREENS URGED
TORONTO (CP) - Protective wire screens in cabs have been urged by the Toronto Union of Taxi Employees after a robbery recently in which a driver was knifed 12 times. The union voted to ask Metro licensing commission to draft a by-law requiring cab owners to equip Metro's 1,200 taxis with a mesh grill mounted on the back of the front seat.

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Editorial Comment

Decimals Confusing Britons

If the horrendous task of supermarket comparison shopping, with its myriad of unrelated sizes and weights, is getting you down this week, spare a thought for the harassed Briton.

On Feb. 15 the new decimal currency officially came into being, and the headaches are mounting.

To a Canadian, at first glance, the switch from the complicated pounds-shillings-and pence system to one divisible by 10 would appear something of a blessing. But it isn't as simple as that.

The chief stumbling block would appear to be the retention of the old names of pounds and pence, where the latter's value has no relationship to the one held previously.

Until now it took 12 pence to make one shilling and 20 shillings to equal a pound, which in Canadian terms has a value of about \$2.40. In other words, 240 pence equalled one pound. Now 100 new pence equal one pound.

One alternative for the new system would have been to divide the pound into 10 shillings, but this was vetoed on the grounds that it would give a false impression that the pound was being devalued by half.

So now the shilling has disappeared and each new penny is worth 2.4 of the old ones. Thus the task of converting prices from the old system to the new becomes even more complicated.

And to add to the difficulty, it will take some time to remove from circulation all the old coins which are being replaced by the 50-pence piece, the 10-pence piece, the two-pence piece, the penny and the half penny. Every time an old penny is passed in a transaction it will have to be calculated as being worth 5/12ths of a new one.

It is significant that the first successful conversions to the decimal system - the American currency change in 1792 and the establishment of the metric system in France in 1793 - came in the wake of revolutions. In other words, it was decided to make a completely fresh start.

The metric system of weights and measures, of course, is fantastically more simple and efficient than that used now by the English speaking countries, which in its way is more complicated than Britain's now discarded pounds-shillings-pence monetary system. And it seems inevitable that we will one day convert our weights and measures to metric.

In which case a complete break with the past will be necessary. But human nature being what it is, people will long go on trying to equate a litre with a quart then, despite their relative closeness in volume, they have no actual relationship.

Snowmobile Road Rules

Ontario Transport Minister Irwin Haskett said that study of highway collisions involving motorized snow vehicles during the past two winter seasons clearly showed that a major problem area had been the operators' unfamiliarity with the rules of the road for motor vehicles.

One cold morning the native was seen, dressed in his nightshirt, vigorously chopping kindling. His neighbour, amazed at the brevity of the old man's clothing in such severe weather, asked, "How come?"

The man never missed a lick in his chopping as he replied: "For the last 70 years I have always dressed by a fire, and I'll be dad gummed if I'm gonna stop now."

Sergeant Pilot Leslie Blight who graduated from No. 6 Training School at Dunnville on Monday evening has been transferred to the Trenton Airport.

Counter Clockwise

20 YEARS AGO
A store in New Jersey has two large safes. One contained \$4,000 the other was empty. Thieves worked for hours on one, finally opened it - and drew the blank.

30 YEARS AGO
Dr. Irwin J. Leatherdale, passed away at 11 o'clock on Tuesday as a result of severe burns received when his bed caught fire at 4 a.m. the same morning. The fire was believed to have been caused by a short circuit in the cord leading to an electric warming pad, near the foot of the bed.

In Albany, the New York Bureau of Motor Vehicles got a letter from a lady who wanted a low license number because her memory was bad. She forgot to sign her name.



Scott Young

Puffballs in the gorse

When I wrote about the famous Scottish dish, haggis, two weeks ago I had no idea that I would touch so many raw nerves.

My non-committal recounting of assurances I had been given that a haggis is a featherless bird found on the moors of Argyllshire, easily shot because it flies backward to keep the wind out of its eyes, was received with scorn.

Several correspondents claimed that haggises actually are animals with left legs longer than the right ones. This enables them to run rapidly and without overbalancing around mountain peaks, as long as they are running clockwise.

The way to catch them is to get up 15 minutes earlier than the haggises and start chasing them counter-clockwise. Running that way, they topple over and roll downhill where they may be gathered like puffballs in the gorse and heather below.

However, one gentleman contended that haggises really are dead bagpipes, and that the noise of their slaughter is what makes nights so hideous around the armories of Highland regiments.

Anyway, no discussion of the haggis is complete without a few stanzas from the work of the young poet MacChyryson of the Isle of Hags in the Middle Hebrides. Here, in translation from the Gaelic, is a sampling.

The Haggis is a wondrous beast,
It neither walks nor waddles,
And frenzied by the mating urge
It cannot fly but toddles.
It toddles through the glens and hills,
It toddles through the heather,
A-singing of its mating tune
'Ach, jings, what afa' weather.'

There are only another 570 quatrains in MacChyryson's masterwork, so here... pardon me, the editor just fainted. Well, I can take a hint. These two must suffice for now.

But while he's still out, I think we should slip in the words of Robbie Burns on the subject of haggis:

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chiefstain o' the puddin' race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe or thairm.
Weel are ye woady o' a grace
As lang's my arm.

(Translations: Fair fa' - good befall. Sonsie - comely. Aboon - above. Painch - paunch, a variety of tripe. Thairm - intestines. Last 2 lines: Well are you worthy of a grace, as long as my arm.)

A few other random notes seem in order also. A company called Baxter's of Scotland is the biggest haggis-maker in the world. But Baxter's recently was the victim of a malicious whispering campaign. Competitors claimed that Baxter haggis no longer came from the moors, but was battery-reared. Baxter's retorted with righteous indignation that this rumor was completely without fact, and that all Baxter haggises were still shot in the traditional manner - on the moors where they are raised, and by men using the longbow, crossbow or occasionally, arquebus.

I will take Baxter's word for it, because anybody who can make a living selling haggis in cans (as Baxter's does) deserves the unstinting respect of all.

The Baxter haggis-hunting expeditions, incidentally, now are headed by none other than Torquil Farquhar Lachlan MacHaggis of Hags, the younger son of the Chiefstain. This gentleman is of a dumpy appearance and is known as Torque, for short, because of the peculiar manner in which he walks.

I suppose also you should be aware of how to act in public if you eat haggis, and like it. Most real haggis-eaters find that it is just as well to wash it down with straight Scotch, to keep the courage up.

If you do this and enjoy it, you should raise the right arm and left leg (the opposite will suffice) and utter in a resonant tone the Gaelic benediction: "MAIR!" meaning, mair Scotch and mair haggis. And happy haggis-hunting to you all.

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