



The Birtle Eye-Witness

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Official Voice of the Beautiful Birdtail Country

GO SUCK A LEMON QUEBEC

BY — CATHERINE FORD

The following article was recently read over Peter Warren's CJOB Action Line.

Hey Quebec!

Go suck a lemon!

Better still, give me a divorce. A no-fault, no-contest, you keep your property and I'll keep mine, split. I don't wanna be married to you anymore.

Can we stay friends, 'cause I'd like to visit now and then, but baby, the marriage isn't working.

Please take your Olympic deficit, Jean Drapeau, tainted meat, past corruptions and future graft, the sewage polluted St. Lawrence Mirabel airport; your air traffic controllers; the James Bay project; and your language and move out of the house.

This reconciliation, which the federal government is calling bilingualism and biculturalism, just is not working, no matter how many marriage counselors are on the civil service staff.

WOULDN'T IT BE LOVELY AND PEACEFUL? No more fighting and arguments and bad feelings and temper — just a pleasant next-door relationship. We could visit back and forth. I'd bring you a Saskatoon berry pie with the roast beef, and you could give me quiche Lorraine and French onion soup.

Why, we'd be the best of neighbors.

We could learn from each other, and share our experiences over a cup of coffee. I'd help you with my language and customs, and you could help me with yours. But it isn't going to work any other way.

I won't let you dominate the house. Share, yes! But control? Forget it.

There are nine other members of the family, and you just don't have the right to rule us all. We've thrown away the Dr. Spock book and replaced it with a switch. No more bad boy tactics to rule the roost. Holding your breath and turning blue isn't going to help — even if you are one of the parents.

If Lower Canada is the father, then Upper Canada is the mother, and this mother has discovered women's lib. Equality, and all that stuff. Share and share alike. You can't have the biggest piece of the pie just because you've asked for it.

I ADMIT THAT IN THE PAST we've given in to all your demands.

You've been pampered and petted, because the rest of us thought you got a bad deal in the marriage agreement. We didn't want you to feel bad about being trounced on the Plains of Abraham, and we wanted you to share equally in the marriage.

But you didn't have to take advantage of the dowry.

Let's face it — there are really just the two of us in this marriage, but don't let the rest of them find out.

When it comes right down to the nitty-gritty most of the advantages you've been getting from Ottawa might as well have been taken directly from the pocket of Ontario taxpayers. I do, you know, pay most of the shot. (I can hear Alberta screaming in the background, but we'll ignore her for the moment.)

Let's have a heart-to-heart talk.

I would love to talk French. But I will not — repeat not — have it shoved down my throat. I resent having to pay double for every label and package and sign because we have to share them. But that isn't what really grates me. That I can live with — in fact, that's kinda unique. Sort of makes the marriage look good to outsiders.

But you've been talking to the next door neighbors. In fact, you've been washing the dirty laundry in public. That's no fair way to treat a lady, and this lady isn't going to stand for it much longer.

You've made a mockery out of the Olympics with graft, corruption and over-spending, and the rest of us know perfectly well you'll be around in the fall poor mouthing us to help with the bills. (Personally, I'd like to send back all your credit cards.)

You've made a global jackass out of the rest of us (thanks to your friends in Ottawa) with the airport language issue. (Look, everybody speaks English, why can't you?)

Forgiving the black sheep of the family isn't easy when there's so much to forgive. I find it hard to overlook the FLQ, the War Measures Act, Montreal mail boxes, organized crime, and that unique of all criminals — the Montreal bank robber. Sure, you've got a lot of Gallic charm but that isn't cutting much ice around here anymore.

You're the embodiment of everything I hate about minority groups — the whining, the yelling, the screeching about your rights, with little concern for the rights of others. I'll let you in on a secret — your rights end where mine begin and when you spit in my face, expect a reaction, 'cause, baby, that's what you are getting.

Backlash? You ain't seen nuthin' yet.

I quite simply don't want you any more. I don't want your language, your customs, your problems, and your whining voice grating in my ears.

Start building a fence, because you would make a great next door neighbor, but you're a wash-out as a marriage partner.

I've got a lot of self-esteem to build back up, and I'd like to start respecting myself again.

I want to enjoy my own language, its beauty and richness and variety. I intend enjoying my own customs and heritage.

I want to sit down to a dinner of roast beef and mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, Yorkshire pudding and apple pie and ice cream, without being thought stodgy and unimaginative.

I want to speak with my friends in my own way and be proud of it. I want to sing God Save the Queen and O Canada, not whisper any longer.

Bonjour, mon ami.

Find yourself a lawyer. You've got a fight on your hands!

Walley's Store Heavily Damaged by Fire

Walley's Store, which has provided general merchandising service in Birtle for three generations, was severely damaged by fire on August 18.

The alarm was sounded around 10:45 p.m. to the blaze in the rear of the store which is believed to have started in

the basement.

The Birtle firemen answered the call and were later aided by the Shoal Lake fire brigade in case the fire should get out of control. The fire was soon extinguished but the interior of the store was badly damaged by heat and smoke. Contents of the grocery store were ruined.

The Walley family have operated the store in Birtle for three generations. The first store was a tent on the corner lot adjoining the present store. It opened in Sep-

tember of 1881. The tent was later replaced by a log structure. The move into the present two storey brick building was made in 1899.

John Walley was the first generation, Ernie Walley Sr. the second generation. Jack and Ernie Walley Jr. have carried on the third generation as J. & E. Walley Ltd.

It is to be hoped that Jack and Ernie will see fit to reopen their store to continue to provide residents of the area with a top notch grocery store.

Wedding Bells

Marriage vows were exchanged on July 10th, 1976 between Darlene Ann, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Zimmerman of Solgirth, and Hanz George, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerhardt Juskowich of Glenella.

Rev. Paul M. Swedberg officiated at the lovely double-ring ceremony which took place in the Grace Lutheran Church in Russell. The organist was Olga Halwas and the soloist was Mrs. Sally Swedberg.

Darlene looked beautiful as she entered the church on the arm of her father. She wore a lovely full length gown in silk norganza featuring a high neckline in chantilly lace with matching appliques on the A line skirt falling in a chapel train edged in lace. The long sleeves were finished in a bishop lace cuff. Her mantilla silk illusion veil edged in chantilly lace held a chiffon floral headpiece. She carried a cascade of red roses and baby's breath and wore a white rose corsage.

The maid of honour was Jean Juba, friend of the bride. The bridesmaids were Janice Sulick, friend of the groom, and Diane Zimmerman, sister of the bride. The flowergirl was Melanie Baydak, cousin of the bride. They wore identical gowns of blue screen printed dechine crepe. The gowns featured a scoop neckline and short puffed sleeves. They wore blue baby gardenias in their hair and carried red and white gardenia bouquets.

The bestman was Fred Juskowich, brother of the groom. The ushers were Ron Zimmerman, brother of the bride, and Darwin Pehl, friend of the groom. The ringbearer was Chucky Hachkowski, cousin of the bride. The gentlemen in the wedding party looked handsome in black tuxedos and white shirts with blue ruffled trim.

The bride's mother chose a yellow sheer floral gown with white accessories. Mother of the groom chose a mauve polyester gown with white accessories. Both ladies wore red rose corsages.

Following the ceremony a reception and dance was held in the Rosburn Town Hall.

The toast to the bride was proposed by Walter Hachkowski.

For going away Darlene & George chose matching blue tailored outfits.

Following a honeymoon to points west, the happy couple will reside in Winnipeg.

Special guests from West Germany were Hanz and Annie Sader, cousins of the groom. Other guests were from Brandon, Winnipeg, Waldersee, Glenella, Ste. Rose, Thunder Bay, Grandview, Portage la Prairie, Swan River, McCreary, Lac du Bonnet, Edmonton, Camrose, Roundhill and Tofield, Alta.

Item of Interest

The Walley family held a re-union picnic at Birtle Park on August 2nd. Those in attendance included — Mr. and Mrs. Thos Matthews (Kay) of Utica, New York; Mrs. Duffy (Reta) of Portage la Prairie; Pat and Ken Smith of Portage; Rae and Martin Schimmell of Hamiota, daughters of Reta Duffy; Jack and Alice Walley; Ernie and Maureen Walley and Dick and Edith Spencer, all of Birtle.

Funeral Services Held For R. P. Butler

Richard Pierce (Dick) Butler passed away in the Swan River Valley Hospital on August 18th, 1976 after a brief illness. He was 65 years of age.

Born in Portage la Prairie, Mr. Butler received his education at Solgirth. He later farmed in the Solgirth district which eventually developed into Iverdale Farms which he and his son operated in partnership. They specialized in registered Angus cattle.

Mr. Butler retired from the farm in 1970 and at that time became the proprietor of the Swan River Bowling Lanes. He operated this business until 1975 when he semi retired working on a parttime basis as a bookkeeper at the Swan River Valley Lodge from 1975 until his passing.

Mr. Butler married the former Vida MacDonald on July 1st, 1933 and was predeceased by her on December 31, 1968. On September 5th, 1970 he married Elsa Blaser of Pinawa, Man.

Besides his wife Elsa, Mr. Butler leaves to mourn his passing, one son Arthur of Erickson, Man.; his daughter in law Elsie and two grandchildren, Walter and Kerrie; two daughters, Sheila Fawcett and her husband John and 3 children, Cheryl, Kim and Lorilee; Enid Lochhead and husband John of Basswood and children Richard, Phyllis, and George; Sylvia Todaschuk (nee Stadnyk) and husband Ernie and children Rose Marie and Sharlene; Mrs. Todaschuk made her home with the Butler family for a number of years. He is also survived by six brothers, Jack of Youngstown, Alberta; Art of Winnipeg; Bill of Foxwarren; Charlie, Solgirth; Syd of Dugald; Pierce of Calgary; four sisters, Agnes Taylor, Vancouver; Eva McTavish, Rosburn; Marina Chaloner, Port Coquitlam, B.C. and Brenwyn Klaski.

Funeral service was conducted by Pastor Randy Faro at 11:00 a.m. on August 21st from Trinity Lutheran Church in Swan River. Pastor Faro was assisted by Rev. Ralph Jacobs at the interment in the Birtle Cemetery.

Active bearers were Lloyd Hogberg, Dan Pawluk, Frank Leggat, Bud Amy, George Church and Frank Nerbas.

Honorary pallbearers were Les Currie, James Bilton, Gordon Parsons, Roy Finlay, Harvey Nickel, Raymond McTavish, Ken Rapley and Alvin Yaskiw.

Joe Poppels Honored at Social Evening

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Poppel of Miniota were honored recently at a dine and dance on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Following supper with friends, the honored couple were taken to the Miniota Community Centre where friends and relatives were gathered. Music was supplied by the Alex Frazier Combo, and at midnite the Anglican Church Women served a delicious turkey supper.

George Davis acted as master of ceremonies. Gifts were

received from the Ukraine, plus cards and gifts from their many relatives and friends. Joe and Mary both expressed their thanks to all.

Those attending from a distance were from Prince Albert, Humboldt, Pelger, Sask. Winnipeg, Foxwarren, Angusville, Oakburn, The Pas, Decer, Isabella, Toronto, Birtle and Grandview.

On Saturday evening family and friends gathered at Sioux Benn Park at Miniota for a picnic supper and barbecue.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS!

DUE TO MECHANICAL PROBLEMS WHICH KEPT OUR TYPESETTING MACHINE OUT OF ORDER FOR MOST OF LAST WEEK, THE EYE-WITNESS WAS NOT PUBLISHED LAST WEEK.

WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCES CAUSED TO OUR READERS!

— PAT

300 Club Winner

Last Week — Nellie Fulton, Birtle

This Week —

Westridge Wanderers Man. Hydro, Winnipeg

BIRTLE SKATING AND CURLING CLUBS

THE PARTY LINE

Part of the problem of choosing a new leader for any political party is to find the man with the sharpest intelligence.

The following, from the Ontario Magistrates Quarterly, may help when the time comes to elect councillors in our town or rural municipality comes around this fall.

Interlocutor: "Tell me, what do you think of LSD?"

Candidate: "He was the best premier Manitoba ever had."

Interlocutor: "A very perceptive reply Sir. What is your opinion of biculturalism in Canada?"

Candidate: "It has always seemed to me that it should be made legal between consenting adults."

Interlocutor: "I dare say a great many Canadians share your highly intelligent opinion. Have you any views on bilingualism?"

Candidate: "A lot of people that I have spoken to, feel, and I feel the same way, that the teenagers of today are doing it too much and entirely too often. We all think there should be a law against it."

W. J. "John" Brown.

Leading the parade of athletes from West-Man at the Manitoba Summer Games at Neepaw last week was Bernie Plett, our Recreation Director. Bernie also gave the Oath of all participants and was a member of the West-Man Cycling team which placed second in their competition. Congratulations Bernie!

The West-Man Junior baseball team is taking part in the Canadian Championships at Moncton, New Brunswick this week. Bill Flynn and Bill Derlago are members of the team.

Rhonda Kitching left last week for Regina where she will study dental nursing.

Firemen were called to the Ivan Cooley farm last Monday when his combine caught fire. Extent of the damage is not known.

Congratulations to Larry Kowal who was a member of the Brandon Olympics who won the Soccer Championship at the Manitoba Summer Games at Neepawa last week. They represented the West-Man region.

The Westman Junior Ball Team is representing Manitoba in the Canadian Championships at Moncton, N.B. this week. Team members include Bill Flynn and Bill Derlago from this area. Good luck!

Sympathy of the community is extended to the Butler families on the sudden passing of Dick Butler in Swan River last week.

From August 26th to September 2nd, the Birdtail Lawn Bowling Club will have a drive for funds for the greens by asking for pledges.

Ernest D. A. Carnegie, who farmed near Uno, Man., before opening a general store in Arrow River, died July 27 in Vancouver. He was born in Cortachy, Scotland in 1886 and came to Canada in 1911. The following year Elizabeth Forbes, his fiancée, came and they were married in 1912.

He is survived by his wife; three sons, Don and Jim of Kamloops; and Murray of The Pas; and four daughters, Jean (Winnipeg), Effie (Calgary), Mary (Mrs. G. Wilson) and Betty, both of Vancouver. Two sons, Bill and Bob, pre-

deceased him.

Ernie Carnegie and members of the family contributed to many memorial and other events in the Birtle district with their bagpipes and Jim Carnegie piped "The Lament" at the funeral service for his father on July 30th.

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Sympathy of the community is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Morris and family on the passing of Mrs. Morris' father, Paul Marples, in Winnipeg. Funeral service was held in Winnipeg on Monday.

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Craig Stewart, MP for Marquette, and Mrs. Audrey Johnston were married on August 23rd at a small private ceremony in Knox United Church Chapel in Brandon. Both Mr. Stewart and his wife were widowed some years ago. Mr. Stewart has 5 children by his previous marriage, Audrey Stewart 6.

The couple will continue to live in Minnedosa.

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Television has lots of first grade humour these days. The trouble is, most of the viewers are beyond the first grade.

Item of Interest

Birtle Collegiate graduation was held June 25th.

The graduates, with their parents and guests, enjoyed a banquet in the Collegiate Gym prior to the exercises in the Community Hall.

Mr. Dennis Wrightson, the principal of B.C.L., was chairman for the evening.

After the presentation of diplomas, Rebecca Ryan gave the Valedictory address. She asked the graduates to dwell not on their past differences and disappointments, but to remember only the good times that were shared. To look forward to the future and to consider each new day as the best day.

The presentation of awards followed with Laurie Jean Paron receiving the U of Manitoba Alumni Award for excellence as well as awards for top marks in French 300, Math 300 and Chemistry 300. Rebecca Ryan received awards for top marks in English 300, Geography 300 and Social Studies 301.

Marnee Moulson received the division medal for best all around student in Business Education and awards for top marks in English 301, Short-hand, Typing and Office Practice 302.

The Division Medal for best all around student in the High School program was awarded to Rhonda Kitching.

Others presented with awards were — John Wythe, Physics 300; Keith Irwin, Drafting 301; Patrick Mak, Economics 301; Karen Barteaux, Business Law 302; Kathy Taylor, Biology 300; Diana Doran, John Wythe, Accounting 302; Marc Mulaire, Francais 300; Debbie Porter, Math 301; Clifford Reimer, Physical Science 301.

The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Allan Bray, one of the graduates favorite teachers. He spoke on "Being Yourself" and admonished the grads to try and analyze themselves and to choose their companions and their life's work according to their own likes and dislikes and not to do things that were against the dictates of their conscience just because it was "the thing to do" or because "every one else was doing it."

Following Mr. Bray's address, the graduates retired and the evening concluded with the grand march and grad dance.