

Promises to keep

By BETTIE BRADLEY

It is so easy to make promises that don't have to be fulfilled 'til some vague time in the distant future. Our family wandered into this very trap many years ago.

My husband and I began enjoying regular trips to Europe about a dozen years ago. We planned these trips with great care. Letters flew back and forth across the Atlantic to Italian friends who shared our vacations with us. Excitement grew with the arrival of each new letter and every suggested itinerary.

However, our small children felt excluded. Their only entree to the planning was our bi-annual search for suitable housekeepers to take charge of them in our absence.

Why did we feel guilty about taking well earned holidays? We knew that couples need time together, away from the daily irritation of constantly supervising children. And we knew that children appreciate the family unit far more if they are occasionally separated from their parents.

And yet we still felt uneasy about our eagerness to get away. So we impulsively made a commitment.

As each child reached 16, we promised he or she would accompany us on a major trip and we would introduce each of them to some part of the Europe we had come to love.

It not only assuaged our guilt, but as we collected pamphlets and brochures, the children began to enjoy them, too. They wondered which country they would visit. They listened more eagerly to our accounts of favorite cities, favorite countries.

It was an innocent promise, easily made to children all under five years of age.

The years flew by and the children began to dream about their special holiday in earnest. We knew we were locked in.

Suddenly it is 1975. My son was born in 1959. My mathematics isn't very dependable but when I subtract 1959 from 1975,

it keeps coming up 16.

Early in the year it started. When will we go? Let's go somewhere hot and sunny and sandy.

Does it have to be a "learning experience" — an unfortunate phrase guaranteed to turn off the young. Do we have to do the museum and cathedral bit? May I choose the country?

Can you imagine the terror that grips a parent in such a situation? I had the responsibility of fulfilling a dream. We had bragged, promised, drawn word pictures, exaggerated all these many years. And now I was faced with showing him the reality and making it memorable.

I tentatively made and discarded a dozen short trips. England didn't seem foreign enough. I wanted to introduce him to an entirely different culture.

I worried that Italy, which I love, could turn into a tour of great cities that would not really be much fun for a very young man.

I wondered about Mexico, but decided that Acapulco might be just a beach holiday.

I toyed with the idea of the Greek islands, but worried that being confined to a cruise ship might strain the patience of a teenager with excessive energy.

In the end, the decision was made for me. Unexpectedly, and with almost no advance notice, it was necessary for me to go on a business trip. The country was therefore selected for me. John, my son, was invited to accompany me.

There was a flurry of washing, ironing, packing. Was my passport up to date? Could I arrange for the care of my daughters on such short notice? And this was the biggest question of all: In seven short days, could I help John experience a dream that could then take its place in a handful of very special memories.

Our dreams provide the promise. Our memories sustain us with the joy of recollection. I hoped that, together, John and I would fulfill the dream and this would automatically provide the memories.

Yesterdays

The following are experts from area newspapers of the past.

30 YEARS AGO

The youth policy of your party will be discussed by representatives of all political parties at a forum to be held at Long Branch School. The social education committee of the Lakeshore YWCA and YMCA is sponsoring the meeting. T. L. Kennedy, MPP for Peel County, and Captain Rodney Adamson, MP for West York, will represent the Progressive Conservatives. Ashley Hornell and Chris Bennett will speak for the Liberals, with C. H. Millard and Mr. Kerrighan for the CCF and Mr. Welch for the Labor-Conservatives.

A motion was passed by the Port Credit Businessmen's Association requesting the village to provide waste receptacles on main street. Several complaints have been made about loose paper and wrapping along the main street and it was suggested that four containers be placed in the business centre.

20 YEARS AGO

South Peel faces a \$4,400,000 school building program in the next four years, H. J. A. Brown, business administrator of the South Peel Board of Education has announced. At a joint meeting of the Toronto Township and Port Credit councils, Mr. Brown said \$2,700,000 will be required for public schools and \$1,700,000 for high schools.

A \$1,500,000 industrial development has been given the green light by Toronto Township council. Planning board has agreed to recommend approval of the plan of Canada Clay Co. to establish a brick plant northwest of Streetsville. The firm has taken a six-month option on the 185-acre Norman Ellis farm on the outskirts of Streetsville. The land optioned by the company is said to be the last remaining brick land in Toronto Township.

10 YEARS AGO

Children should start receiving sex education before they are three or four years old. This recommendation came from Rev. Leo LaFreniere at a gathering of 200 parents at a Catholic Women's League meeting in Streetsville. He said sex education should begin at an early age so the children will grow up with the proper perspective. Rev. LaFreniere, retreat master of the Queen of Apostles Retreat Home in Port Credit, told the parents not to expect schools to do a job that should

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CORRECTION

The City of Mississauga's 1975 Summer Brochure of Recreational activities listed incorrectly certain details pertaining to the Municipal operated Lakeview Golf Club.

The correct details regarding green fees and times are as follows:

DAILY TICKET	18 holes	\$5.50
7 DAYS PER WEEK		
SECOND ROUND TICKET:	18 holes	\$2.50
TWILIGHT TICKET:	On sale approximately 2½ hours before dark	\$2.50
JUNIOR TICKET:	Monday, Wednesday, Friday—before 10:00 A.M.	\$2.50
SENIOR CITIZENS:	Monday, Wednesday, Friday—18 holes	\$2.50
TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	Office	278-4896
	Pro Shop	278-4411

Mr. L. (Larry) Edwards is both professional and manager of the city's Lakeview Golf Club.

Meeting on women's role in economy

About 250 women are expected to attend an all-day Women in the Economy conference at Erindale College this Saturday.

Representatives from 34 University Women's clubs in southwestern Ontario will at-

tend the regional conference. This is the first year the University Women's Club of Mississauga is hosting the event.

Mississauga councillors Mary Helen Spence and Hazel McCallion will be among the

33 workshop leaders. Workshops will also be led by local educators, representatives from the department of labour, ministry of treasury and economics, Canadian Association of Consumers, Voice of Women, National

Citizens Coalition and Planned Parenthood Association. Morning workshops will deal with these topics: Sensitizing Women to their Potential; Canadian Unity, Women in Education, Wages for Housework, Equal Pay for

Equal Work, Economic Opportunities for Women, Women as Intelligent Consumers, The World of Standards and Metrifaction, and What Price Nutrition?

During the afternoon workshops, the following topics will be discussed: Women in Politics, Citizen Groups, Population Problems, Volunteers, Day Care, Community Involvement and Political Responsiveness.

Following opening greetings by Peel Regional Chairman Lou Parsons, Ruth Bell, an economist and president of the Canadian Federation of University Women, will speak.

Ethel McLellan, executive co-ordinator, women's programs, ministry of labor, will be the guest speaker at dinner.

The conference is closed to the public.



Arnold E. Bates

Reception to honor principal

Close to 2,000 students, parents and friends are expected to attend a reception for Arnold E. Bates, retiring principal, at Elmcree School auditorium on Sunday, May 25.

A resident of Mississauga, Bates has been with the Peel education system for the past 37 years, serving as principal for 22 years. He opened Elmcree Public School in 1960.

The event, to be held from 2 to 5 p.m., is organized by friends and parents in the Elmcree Community.

Everyone is welcome.

Friends, former students and teachers are asked to advise others who were acquainted with Bates to attend the open house. Elmcree Public School is located at 2620 Chalkwell Close.

First to collect

When Wintario's pay-off office opened for the first time on Friday morning, the first person to collect his winnings from the Ontario Lottery Corporation was Glen Griffin of 3310 Fieldgate Dr. in Mississauga.

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