

Greetings fellow Rotarians,

In her ongoing research of the Examiner archives from 1921, the year our club was founded, Frances has unearthed some 100-year-old driving instructions, and some more humour. But first: a word teaser from a century ago:

What does "contumely" mean?

Here it is in a sentence from the *Evening Examiner*, Aug. 3, 1921, reporting on the Aug. 1, 1921, meeting of our recently-formed Rotary Club. The speaker was Mr. P. Westbye, of the Wm. Hamilton Company, who said:

"...‘the bad boy’, so to speak, is hurried further along the line of wrong conduct by indifference and contumely."

Answer at the end of this email! (No cheating by looking it up!)

From *The Evening Examiner*, Peterborough, Wednesday, April 13, 1921:

Now Don't (100-year-old driving instructions)

A little thought will show in many ways how an automobile driver may avoid giving offense, although unintentional, and thereby help to overcome the prejudice against automobilists.



Don't neglect to read the law of the Province in which you are driving your car, particularly as to speed, number tags and lights.



Don't insist in passing every vehicle ahead of you without regard to the narrowness of the road, and do not cut under the nose of a horse in passing a horse-drawn rig.



Don't wait until you are close upon an approaching wagon or automobile before turning out.



Do give half of the road and do it in season.



Don't allow vast quantities of smoke to be emitted from your exhaust.



Don't use your muffled cut-off on every occasion, regardless of the proximity of nervous horses.



Don't blind the eyes of drivers and pedestrians by using your lights unnecessarily.



Don't blow your horn and expect everyone to get out of your way.



Don't imagine you own the whole highway.



Don't forget to moderate your light glare in conformity with the new regulations.

And finally:

From *The Evening Examiner*, Peterborough, Thursday, May 19, 1921:

Wise and Otherwise

A schoolgirl was required to write 200 words about a motor car. She submitted the following:

"My uncle bought a motor car. He was out riding in the country when it busted going up a hill. The other 180 words are what my uncle said when he was walking back to town, but I know you wouldn't want me to repeat them."

And now, the answer to what "contumely" means:

[contumely = insolent or insulting language or treatment]

Stay safe everyone, and don't speak with contumely!