

1961 April 27: Dedication of Starlite Building;  
Bayers' Road Shopping Centre.

I come here to-day to congratulate Butler Bros., first, on their enterprise in starting, and carrying on, <sup>the Bayer Road</sup> this shopping centre.

Secondly, and ~~primarily~~ especially, to congratulate them on the opening of <sup>the</sup> this starlite building.

It was a very happy thought to dedicate this building to the seafaring men of Halifax. Halifax owes its origin, and its continuance, to men of the Navy and Merchant marine.

In the 19th century, Halifax was one of the great bases of ~~Her Majesty's~~ ~~seafaring~~ Queen Victoria's far-flung Empire. Halifax was the guardian of the north. Her ships were the protectors, guardians and saviours of British North America.

In more recent times, in two World Wars, we have witnessed Merchant men sailing out of Halifax with men and material for Europe, to help save the world. If we are still part of the commonwealth, it is due to the self-sacrifice of these men. It is becoming that the citizens of Halifax should not forget.

The idea of associating the stars with the sailors of the sea, is not only happy, but timely.

In days gone by, poets were inspired by the captain on his bridge scanning the stars. Those days are passing. To-day, well-equipped ships can ~~learn their~~ determine their position by signals from the shore, - when they are in radio reach of land. The day is coming when every ship on the high seas will be able to get her position by buzzing a satellite soaring overhead.

Last year, the Americans launched two Transit satellites designed to give to ships at sea their position. It is only a question of time, before there will be enough navigation satellites in space to serve

all ships.

This is a great technological advance. But it robs us as poetry. The navigation officer, below decks, wearing headphones, does not inspire us with poetica thoughts as did the old ~~sailor with his~~ ~~sextant~~ capatin on his brifge.

As the tendency for technology is to concentrate on the merely useful, it is heartening to see this starlite building, where mddern art, & commerce, sceince and technolgy are bleded together to produce the useful and beautiful.

Mr Mayor, you are to be congratulated in having in your community, in your city, citizens of the caliber of Butler Bros., who have the vision to progress with the times and , at the same time, to remember the comfort and convenience of their patrons. The starlite building ~~is~~ reflects the nature of the men who conceived it, men with civic pride and with the ffiture of their city at heart.

There is a touch about this building which makes it spiritual as well as material. The stars on the ceiling of the lobby, enable one to raise ones mind to the heavens,- even on cloudy days.

In these days of trouble, througout the world, starlite is a steadying draught for nerves in tension. They make us to think of the space beyond.

You recall how Dante, in his Divi ne Comedy, was led, ~~on~~ on a tour, through hell and purgatory and then up through the vaiious grades of heaven. Coming near to the end of his poem there is suspense. One is getting closer and closer to the summit. One expects, at any moment, to be ushered into tae Divine presence. One is just at the threshold, when the poem ends, with the two lines: They entered in, and there beheld, the Love that made the sun and other stars.

Arrived at ~~on~~ this summit, I pray Almighty God to bless the evry work of Mr Samuel Butler and his sons.