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## EDITORIAL

1950

Year ends are popular times for forecasts and resolutions. Both are difficult and often fail in fulfillment but both crop up annually. So now it's looking ahead for 1950. Some of us can recall the ushering in of the twentieth century and the promise it held at the turn of the century. Well, half of the twentieth century is gone. Many of us will recall that much of the promise has been fulfilled and all will agree that progress has been made in better living conditions. Many experiments have been tried in those fifty years. Some brought advancement while others have found us unwilling to profit by the experiment. Few visioned in 1900 the many things that have come into being in these past fifty years and none will dare predict what the next fifty years will witness.

But while 1950 may be the start of the half century, it is after all but the start of another year. A year of 365 days and each day it's a step in the forward march of a better world. It will have its opportunities and its trials. It will bring its discoveries and its advancements. It will, as in the past, be a stepping-stone in the progress of the community, the nation and the world.

We make no predictions but we do have a wish for all that 1950 will be a milestone with a good measure of health, happiness and contentment for all and that the year may be a stepping stone to greater achievements which may make the community, the country and the world the one we envision.

### Thanks and Best Wishes

We would indeed be remiss if we did not, as the year draws to a close, express our appreciation to all who have assisted to make our community newspaper, the Free Press, representative of this town and district. It is a big family and to enumerate them would be impossible and inviting error of omission.

But be assured the editor does appreciate the co-operation of all in the weekly task of presenting the life and activities and merchandising news of this community. Without so many helpers the task would be impossible.

So as the old year closes, our thanks to all. As the new year opens, our hope for a continuance of your helpfulness and a wish for your happiness, health and contentment in all the days that lie ahead.

### Less Splashing in 1950

Effective January 1, 1950, adequate mudguards or tenders to prevent splashing must be installed on all motor trucks and trailers, the Highways Department announces. An amendment to the Ontario Highway Traffic Act makes such safeguards compulsory. Instructions to police to watch for offenders have been sent out, the Department states. This Act applies directly to trucks and trailers without mudguards and tenders passenger motor cars being already properly equipped with front and rear fenders. It is patterned after the English Law and some states in the United States also have a similar law in effect, stated J. P. Bickell, Ontario Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

### Black and White This Year

The 1950 motor vehicle licenses (markers) go on sale January 1st and they will be white figures on a black background, J. P. Bickell, Registrar of Motor Vehicles, Department of Highways, announces.

During 1949, up to November, 1,946,500 motor vehicle licenses were issued throughout the Province, representing an increase of 11 per cent. over a corresponding period in 1948. There were 1,254,831 drivers' licenses issued during the same period, an increase of 6 per cent. over a similar period in 1948.

### A New Town

1950 marks not only a new year but a new status for Acton. Effective that date, the municipality becomes a town. The step might have been taken ten years ago but perhaps it is just as well that it was not rushed. It's a long story of the community since 1873 when the community became an incorporated village. Who can foretell what the next seventy-seven years will witness?

We like the small towns rather than the larger centres and as we grow we lose some things that we used to relish. Was a time when we knew most everyone in the community and could name the occupants of every house. Growth means that that is impossible. It doesn't mean, however, that we have to lose our friendliness, our community spirit to do things together, to work as a bigger family. These are things we do not want to let go. Houses are numbered. Soon the post office will not be a centre so often as drop letter boxes are installed. We will soon have all city conveniences and boundaries are expanding but let's maintain those things which have made village life so different and enjoyable.

We hope the celebrations or reunion that may be planned to mark Acton's town status will prove that co-operation of all and friendliness to all will never disappear.

### Personals are Welcome

Frequently it seems necessary to remind our readers that we like to receive news of visitors and of visiting for the "Personal Column." These are little items that your guests appreciate and that all our readers like to peruse. They are items that we cannot collect without your help and we consider them a very vital part of the weekly news. There is no charge for these items and they are welcome. To avoid errors we like them written out and sent to the office but if that is impossible, we are as handy as your telephone and the Free Press number is 174.

Your little items of visitors may seem small and unimportant to you. So much so that you hardly deem it worthwhile sending in for publication. Yet, how many have noticed that the personal column is one of the first items a reader turns to upon receiving the paper. This is not done simply for curiosity's sake, but because your friends take a genuine pleasure in reading that friends or relatives have been to visit you. So send those little personal items along each week.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

It was not only a green Christmas but a very spring-like one this year.

Trouble with Christmas coming on Sunday is that Boxing Day is more difficult to locate.

Just two more days of 1949 left and it was a pretty good year at that. May 1950 bring its share of Happiness and Health to all.

This district was free of serious holiday accidents and for this every home can be thankful when the toll elsewhere is revealed.

This is the week between two great holidays and one in which all seem to have difficulty getting back into the routine. It's a short week for many.

Clamping down on drinking drivers and pedestrians had a very agreeable effect on the traffic toll over Christmas. No doubt a similar achievement could be made on any week-end in the city.

Hydro seems bound to keep in the news. If it isn't a power shortage or lack of water it's a changeover or increase of rates. The 10 per cent. increase to municipalities will ultimately result in higher rates to consumers.

More casual perusal of the greeting cards, use and enjoyment of the gifts and above all remembrance of the delightful spirit and relations bring deeper conviction that Christmas is the most important part of the year.

Toronto will vote on legalizing Sunday sports. Surely that city collects enough from commercialized sports six days a week without encroaching on the seventh. No added reasons should be given for calling that city "Hogtown".

You'll find our usual year-end review in pictures this week will recall many highlights of 1949. It's surprising how many local pictures appear in the fifty-two issues of the Free Press and it's impossible to put them all in review.

December of 1949 will go down in history as one of the best for variety. Snow falls of winter, proportion were taken away by heavy spring-like rains and high temperatures and we near the end of the month as we write on Tuesday with no snow or signs of winter.

## Chronicles of... Ginger Farm

Written Specially for  
The Acton Free Press  
GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

Well, by the time this gets into print Christmas and New Year's will be—1 hope—just another happy memory, added to those which have gone before. And until I get myself organized so that I can personally acknowledge the letters and cards which came to me through the kind thought of some of the readers of this column, will you please accept my sincere appreciation of your good wishes. When each of you has your own circle of friends to remember I do appreciate your kind thought in thinking of me at all. It certainly gives me a nice warm feeling to know that we have reached this friendly footing.

Have you got all those lovely greeting cards gathered up ready to put away or have you another use for them? Perhaps you do as I do, take time out after the rush and bustle of the festive season to look them over once again and really enjoy them. It seems to me some folk put far more out of pocket for cards than others. For instance, one elderly lady to whom I always send a card studies every detail in every card she gets, so I naturally choose a card for her very carefully. Afterward I always put a "Thank you" note, giving me her interpretation of the design and the greeting. She is a person with time on her hands and I imagine her Christmas cards are a real joy to her for several weeks every year.

Did you know that the very first Christmas card was produced as far back as 1846. It appears that a certain Englishman by the name of Henry Cole (later he was knighted) wanted some original way to convey greetings to his many friends, so he commissioned an artist friend by the name of Horsley to design a special card for him. It was then lithographed and printed, and then coloured by hand. This first order for Christmas cards was for a thousand cards. First of all people thought it was a crazy notion but gradually the idea "caught on" and soon developed into a great business for some people as of course the cards were very expensive. However, greeting cards soon became less elaborate and more popular as time went on although as you may have noticed, fashions change even in cards. In the Victorian era cards were very ornate, even to silk fringes and ribbons. Then came the "frosted" cards, the frost effect being produced by crushed glass, remember them? From England the idea of sending greeting cards spread to the European continent but by that time the quality of the cards had deteriorated considerably.

In 1874 a Boston manufacturing company started the Christmas card industry in the U.S.A. bringing out cards with a high artistic quality but with scenes that often had nothing to do with Christmas. However, soon after the turn of the century Christmas cards became really Christmas cards with snow scenes, Nativity pictures and holly and evergreen designs. It is also to the U.S.A. that we have to say thank you for picturing the cheery poinsettias so typical of the Yuletide season. Another American innovation was the matching envelope for each card which is just about the funniest thing that ever was, with that you will agree if you ever had the experience of buying cards and then hunting envelopes to match their size as I remember we had to do so very many years ago.

Another thing which probably did a lot to popularize the exchange of greeting cards at least in the Old Country—was the adoption of the Penny Post in Great Britain which first came into force on the birthday of the Prince of Peace in 1898. Sending Christmas cards must have been an expensive business previous to that date.

So there you are, friends—that, briefly, is the story of the origin of the Christmas greeting card. And I am sure if you think of it when you are putting away your cards, you will be grateful to Sir Henry Cole for inventing such a good way of speeding our messages of affection and goodwill from one to another.

Maybe someone also had a brain-wave in regard to calendars—some

of the calendars are so pretty. I also like the appearance of this year's calendars for another season. 1950 looks so much better than 1949! It is not only the beginning of a new year, it is also the closing year of a half century that has brought us two world wars and, let us hope, will eventually bring about the end of unrest that followed in their wake. The very figures "1950" have a finished look if you know what I mean, whereas 1949 looks odd and ragged, or maybe like a blind road that leads nowhere. I never did like a group of figures that was undivisible by a digit... maybe just

a hangover from the days when I had trouble with arithmetic. That's all, folks... Happy New Year, Everybody.

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WIDE BRAND WHOLE **DILL PICKLES** 24.0Z JAR 27c  
**Stuffed OLIVES** JAR 22c, 33c, 45c, 73c

**MAXWELL HOUSE**  
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**V-8 VEGETABLE JUICE** 20.0Z TIN 15c  
**AUSTRALIAN Pineapple JUICE** 20.0Z TINS 35c

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**Kel's APPLE JUICE** 2 20.0Z TINS 15c  
**Blue Back SALMON** 15.0Z TIN 35c  
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## Business Directory

### MEDICAL

**DR. W. G. C. KENNEY**  
Physician and Surgeon  
(Successor to Dr. J. A. McNiven)  
Office in Symon Block, Mill St.,  
Acton  
Office Phone 78—Residence Church St., Phone 188

**DR. D. A. GARRETT**  
Physician and Surgeon  
Corner of Willow and River Sts.  
Entrance River Street  
Acton, Ontario  
Phone 238

### DENTAL

**DR. A. J. BUCHANAN**  
Dental Surgeon  
Office—Leishman Block, Mill St.  
Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
X-RAY  
TELEPHONE 148

**DR. GEORGE A. SIRRS**  
Dental Surgeon  
Mill St., corner Frederick, Acton  
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
TELEPHONE 19

### LEGAL

**C. F. LEATHERLAND, B.A.**  
ACTON  
Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public  
Office 22 Phone—Residence 188

**LIVER & HOSKIN**  
Chartered Accountants  
Successors to  
**JENKINS & HARDY**  
1900 Metropolitan Bldg.  
44 Victoria St., Toronto  
Tel. 9131

### VETERINARY

**B. D. YOUNG, V.S., B.V.Sc.**  
Veterinary Surgeon  
Office—Brookville, Ontario  
Phone Milton 1464

**F. G. OAKES, V.S., B.V.Sc.**  
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Office and Residence Knox Ave.  
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### TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

**GRAY COACH LINES**  
**COACHES LEAVE ACTON**  
Eastbound  
6:38 a.m., 8:58 a.m., 11:48 a.m.,  
2:08 p.m., 4:43 p.m., 6:33 p.m., 1:35 p.m., 10:58 p.m.  
Westbound  
10:42 a.m., 12:52 p.m., 2:57 p.m.,  
5:27 p.m., 7:27 p.m., 9:12 p.m., 11:32 p.m.  
a Daily except Sunday and holidays  
b Saturday, Sunday and holidays

### RAILWAYS

**CANADIAN NATIONAL**  
Eastbound  
Daily 6:41 a.m., Daily except  
Sundays 9:52 a.m., 7:16 p.m. Sun-  
days only, 8:19 p.m., Daily except  
Sunday, Flyer at Georgetown, 8:37 p.m., Daily Flyer at Georgetown, 10:11 p.m.  
Westbound  
Daily except Sunday and Mon-  
day, 1:36 a.m., Sunday and Monday  
only, 1:18 a.m., Daily except Sun-  
day, 8:48 a.m., 6:50 p.m., 7:44 p.m.,  
Saturday only, 2:36 p.m., Sunday  
only 9:43 a.m., Flyer at Georgetown, 6:36 p.m.

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