

BOUQUETS TO THE LIVING

When I quit this mortal shore and mosey round this earth no more, Don't weep, don't sob—I may have struck a better job; Don't go and buy a large bouquet for which you'll find it hard to pay. Don't mope around and feel all blue—I may be better off than you.

Twenty Years Ago

From the Issue of The Free Press of Thursday, October 23rd, 1919

Mrs. John A. Carson, of Salem, Oregon, arrived on Saturday to spend a few days at Fairview Place, with Mrs. C. S. Smith. Knox Church Choir presented Mr. Harold Wikquist, the choir-master, who has resigned, with an electric reading lamp, prior to his removal to London. The Hearst Government is defeated and the Progressives are in the lead. U.P. O. have 40 seats; Liberals 31, Conservatives 28, and Labor 11.

THE OLD MAN OF THE BIG CLOCK TOWER



the mill dam was completed that made name you all the village boys who'd been in these big shiny games. But usually there'd be Jim Nicklin, Bill and Dick Thurlert, Austin Tubby, and George Tom Culhane, Dave Lighthart, Jake Dempsey, and Jack Whitlow. Alex. Hunter George Hynds, Ed. McGarvin, and three or four of the Hill boys, John and Jim, and Charlie, and Chester, when he grew up, and there were the Lighthouse boys—Sam's and Jim's—and George Slingerland, and the Johnson boy, and Jack and Elam Livingstone, and Jack Starford, and Joe and Jack Firstbrook, and lots of others I cannot now remember.

H. Boyd, was built by the late Peter MacDonald, about thirty years ago, when he prepared to retire from farming on the second line. I know this is a hasty sketch, but requirements of the book demand that it be curtailed.

The Old Man "I was a fool when I married you," he said bitterly. "Yes, but I was in love with you and didn't notice it."

OR WAS IT? A farmer was gloomily regarding the ravages of the big flood. "Sam," shouted a neighbor, "I hear your cattle were all washed down the river."

"Aye," was the reply. "How are Brown's cattle?" "They're gone, too." "And Green's?" "Yes."

SO WHY WORRY? Medico—Ask the accident victim what his name is, so we can notify his family. Nurse (a few moments later)—He says his family knows his name.

TAKING NO CHANCES Roberta—Did you count with a daisy to see if Jack loves you? Ruth—No, indeed; it might have turned out wrong. I used a three-leaved clover.

The Murderer Escaped!!

Perhaps you didn't know that there was a murder committed on Mill Street in Acton in the Early Days. Very few now resident in Acton could relate the circumstances. "Acton's Early Days" isn't a murder thrill book but it does record the story of such a crime and where the home was located and the tragic circumstances in connection therewith.

This book of reminiscences answers a lot of other questions concerning Acton's Early Days. How many of these can you answer?

- Where was the first store located? Who purchased the first land? Where did Mazo de la Roche reside in Acton? What was Acton's first name? Who was Charlie Wiegart? Who was the first Precentor in Knox Church? Who wore Walter Beardmore's plug hat in the Calithumpian Parade? Where was Storey's Buckskin Academy and Mr. Ross' Kid Tannery?

You'll delight in reviewing these reminiscences! You will want this book for a reference concerning Acton and the Early Days. We've only touched on the stories it contains.

300 Pages

Of recollections about Acton and the district. If you know Acton you will want it. And if you want it, book your requirements now, to make sure of your copies of

ACTON'S EARLY DAYS

Do not send remittances until the Book is ready. Just Order Now!

The Acton Free Press Phone 174 Acton, Ont.

BRITISH OFFICERS WEAR "Z 20"

Sealed specimens of the correct shades of Army khaki, Air Force blue, and Admiralty blue have been sent by the War Office, Air Ministry and Admiralty to the British Color Council for official registration in their Dictionary of Color Standards, which is the recognized reference for color determination throughout the world. These officially-approved shades are being copied on color charts and sent to textile and dyestuff manufacturers and large and small tailors concerns all over Britain and the Empire.

PLANES FOR "SPECIAL DUTIES"

"Communications" aircraft, set aside for the use of high personages and officers of the fighting forces, play an important part to-day in the mechanics of government. Monarchs, dictators and business executives employ to an increasing extent aircraft for urgent journeys. The "communications" aeroplane is a specially equipped and furnished version of an existing military or civil aircraft, and the United Kingdom aircraft industry produces a wealth of aeroplanes which can be adapted or are already available as they stand for special communication duties.

And now to get on to the Park. It's between fifty and fifty-five years ago that the land, now known as Acton Park, was purchased from the late William E. Smith, and became Acton's fair grounds. The first exhibition held here was in a big canvas tent. That was before the drill hall was moved from Bower Avenue. I think J. E. McGarvin was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Fair at that time. The drill shed went to the Park about forty-five years ago. It occupied a place where the arena now stands until that building was erected, about ten years ago.

For years the only entrance to Acton Park was by way of Park Avenue. Until twenty-five or thirty years ago that avenue, known as Knox Avenue, stopped at the entrance to the church sheds. This property was a big pasture field, and owned by the late John R. Kennedy. About twenty-five years ago Mr. Kennedy subdivided the property into building lots and I think the late Hugh Wallace was the first to erect a residence here, which is still owned by his daughter, Miss Hannah Wallace. Then Alex. Bell put his fine brick residence next and Jeremiah Bell built a comfortable home for his mother, when she came to town from out in Nasagawewa.

The subdivision was popular and Mrs. Robt. Johnston had a home here, and Lawrence Williams built a new house on the other side of the street. Chester Plank erected the cement block house, and the late Frank Sayers built the two brick bungalows, and Jas. McMillan followed with his fine brick house. The last remaining lot was secured by the late Mrs. Minnie Moore for the erection of the little tungalow for herself and her mother, nearest the church sheds. But how I've wandered from the Park. The opening of Knox Avenue had a bearing on the Park, for now there were two entrances, and the Knox Avenue way was popular for all those west of Mill Street, and a bit shorter.

About twenty years ago a very successful celebration was held in the Park, commemorating Acton's fifty years of incorporation as a village. Strange as it may seem, a good bank balance was left after the affair was over and it was decided the Park entrance should be improved. The fences were set back to their present location and the band stand and ticket office and stone pillars were erected. Further celebrations supplied the balance of the funds necessary to complete the work.

About ten years ago the grandstand was moved from the lot adjoining John McArthur's residence to the west side of the Park. The Arena was erected in 1929. But the story of Acton Park is not complete without something about Fairy Lake, which forms such beautiful surroundings for this fine ground. It's just 100 years ago this past summer since

George, his brother. I couldn't begin to name you all the village boys who'd been in these big shiny games. But usually there'd be Jim Nicklin, Bill and Dick Thurlert, Austin Tubby, and George Tom Culhane, Dave Lighthart, Jake Dempsey, and Jack Whitlow. Alex. Hunter George Hynds, Ed. McGarvin, and three or four of the Hill boys, John and Jim, and Charlie, and Chester, when he grew up, and there were the Lighthouse boys—Sam's and Jim's—and George Slingerland, and the Johnson boy, and Jack and Elam Livingstone, and Jack Starford, and Joe and Jack Firstbrook, and lots of others I cannot now remember.

Talk about the hockey of to-day. But it wasn't to be compared with our shiny games. I am sure none of us who saw them, let alone playing them, would ever admit that hockey could compare with shiny for a minute, for real, enjoyable, all-round, healthy, good-natured sport. Yes, sports seem pretty well confined to Acton Park and the old commons. Just seems as if they never got really very far removed. Before I leave the Park and Fairy Lake I should tell you of the homes on Park Avenue and Lake Avenue, since all this section was in the early days all one big plot of ground. Perhaps the first house to be built in this section was that occupied by Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Lindsay, and I believe it was constructed for John Pletsch. I could tell you some stories about most all these homes, but space demands that I stick to the details.

The next house on Park Avenue, occupied by Mrs. Cowie, was built by Ambrose McCann, about twenty years ago. Then the home occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Braida, was built by John Chisholm, a builder who resides now in Saginaw, Michigan. It was occupied at one time by the Methodist minister as a parsonage. John Chisholm was the builder of the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Rumley. I was built for George Dills, and it was here that this family spent their early residence after they came to Acton from the shores of Lake Erie. The house on the corner, now owned by Mr. W. J. Beatty, was started by Charles Glebe, a miller, who came to Acton. Financial matters went against the builder and worry drove him to commit suicide by going to the station early one morning and placing his head under the wheels of the train. The building was completed later by John Harvey, who lived here for some years. The Jeans brothers, William and Harry, built the next house, at least I recall them as the first occupants and having a section of the building for the manufacture of gloves and mitts. The house at the corner, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Neil McKabb, was built for Wm. Speight, who now resides in Toronto.

Then, going on down the south side of Lake Avenue, is a frame house, built by Robert Campbell. He erected this one and three others on the street. The three others were frame ones, too, and the last three on the north side of the street. Of course the last one isn't there now, as it disappeared to make way for that fine brick residence of fairly recent construction, owned by Wm. Landsborough. The brick house, owned by Mrs. Speight, was erected for Mrs. John Allan, not many years ago. John Chisholm was also the builder of the next brick, now owned by Wm. R. E. Blair and family. The cement block adjoining was erected by the present owner and occupant, Allan G. C. Smith. The roughcast house, as near as I can recall, was erected for Thos. Cook, but Mrs. Scott and Miss McDonald have had a cosy home here for many years now. The last house on the south side, where Mr. and Mrs. George Mason reside, was erected by Wm. White, a hardware merchant here.

I have already told you of the builder of the first houses on the first three lots on the north side of the Avenue. The brick house, owned by Miss Bennett, was erected for her parents, when they came to Acton to retire from farm life, by Jeremiah Bell. The roughcast house, owned by Richard Rawson, was, I think, erected for Tommy Miller. At least that is the first family I can recall residing there. The brick house on the next lot is another comparatively new house and was built by the present owner, John McArthur. Of course you all recall that the next lot, the only vacant one on the street, was the pound lot until a few years ago, and was sold by the Corporation to the late John R. Kennedy. The next brick was built by Thos. Moore and the pretty little bungalow adjoining was erected a few years ago for the present occupant, Mrs. R. H. Wansborough. The house on the corner, now occupied by J.

MUGGS AND SKEETER

