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PAGE

Sixty-Seventh Year—No. 46.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY MAY 15th, 1941

Eight Home-Print Pages—Five Cents

No Blame Attached in Cyclist's Death Here

Death Was Due to Compound Fracture of the Skull and Ray Harding Died 10 Minutes After Collision—Light Was Attached On Bicycle and Wheel Was Undamaged — Corp. Moecker Unable to testify Without Interpreter.

After hearing evidence of six witnesses and that of the father of Ray Harding a coroner's jury last Thursday night inquiring into the death of Ray Harding returned the following verdict:

"We, the jury find that Ray Harding's death on April 27th, 1941, was purely accidental with no blame attached to anyone, and would, recommend that stricter enforcement of the law pertaining to lights on bicycles be enforced.

(Signed)
W. R. NORTON,
W. H. CLAYTON,
E. JENNINGS,
H. F. HOLMES,
J. K. GARDINER.

Evidence in the case showed that Ray Harding, 19-year-old lad was returning home on his bicycle on April 27th on the highway east of Acton. Corporal J. J. Moecker of the Northland Regiment at Stratford passed a car driven by Albert Loutlet, Acton, which was travelling about 35 miles per hour. The two bicyclists were approaching in the opposite direction. The one-ridden by Russell Johnston without a light was passed by Moecker. Ray Harding following with a two-well light on his bicycle was in collision with the car driven by Moecker and died a few minutes after the impact from a compound fracture of the skull.

Albert Loutlet, the first witness called, testified that he saw a light but did not see the bicycle. He had heard the crash when a car was passing his car on the highway. There were three other passengers in his car at the time, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Price and Miss Margaret Toogood. Loutlet when questioned, stated that the bicycle light he had seen was steady but could not say how far away he had first seen it.

Herbert Price, second witness, had noted the lights of the car coming from rear and told of returning to the accident and finding Ray Harding on the roadway. He surmised the accident occurred when the cars were passing.

Russell Johnston, companion of Ray Harding, told of going home on his bicycle with Ray Harding. He had no light but Harding had a flashlight. He said Harding was travelling a short distance behind him at the time of the accident.

Dr. E. J. Nelson told of his examination of the injuries sustained by Ray Harding. He said the bicyclist had a number of facial cuts and a compound fracture of the skull. There was a direct injury to the brain. He considered it remarkable that death was not instantaneous.

Pte. John Hoare of Georgetown was a passenger in Corp. Moecker's car. He recalled turning out to pass another car and had noticed two bicycles. He estimated there was two or three feet from the edge of the pavement to the left side of the car in passing. He said the bicyclist was travelling about four feet apart.

Chief E. Harrop told of finding the body in the south ditch on the highway. There was no evidence of liquor on Moecker at the time. He produced the bicycle and flashlight which were not damaged in the collision. The flashlight was operating satisfactorily.

He had examined the car and found it in good mechanical condition. The windows on the left side were broken and the left mudguard dented. It appeared the car had come about 20 feet from the point of collision.

Mrs. Herbert Price also testified and John Harding, father of the victim of the accident, told that he had last seen the boy that day at dinner time. Ray Harding would have been 20 years old in July.

Gatner J. A. McNevin conducted the inquiry and Crown Attorney W. I. Dick questioned the witnesses. Corp. Moecker, driver of the car was not questioned. An officer accompanying him explained he did not understand English and could answer only through an interpreter.

LONDON'S DRAINAGE

NEW YORK, (CP) Reports to the National Technological Civil Protection Committee here indicate that despite the vulnerability of London's drainage system there is no appreciable menace to health from flooding of streets in bombing damage.

ACTON-DELEGATES ATTENDING W.M.S. PROVINCIAL CONVENTION

The 27th annual meeting of the Ontario Provincial Society W.M.S. of the Presbyterian Church in Canada is meeting this week, May 13, 14 and 15 in First Church, Brockville.

Among those who are taking part in the program are Miss Mary E. Anderson, Miss Irene Slinger and Miss Alma Burdick, missionaries from the foreign fields.

Addresses are to be given by Senator Carline Wilson, Her Royal Highness Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone and the Reverend Wm. Barnaby, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church.

A large number of delegates from Guelph Presbyterian are attending the sessions. Those from Acton are Miss Mary E. Anderson, representing the Provincial Board and Mrs. H. I. Bennie as president of Guelph Presbyterian.

Acton Organizes For Victory Loan 1941 Campaign

Preliminary organization of the committee for Acton and District for the 1941 Victory Loan Campaign was made at a meeting on Monday afternoon. The Acton committee has Mrs. A. Mason as chairman and Mr. W. J. Bentley as Vice-Chairman and the following members: Messrs. H. R. Force, R. R. Arnold, G. W. Mason, E. S. Force, C. F. Leatherland, G. A. Dills and Dr. B. D. Young.

The campaign for \$200,000,000 will open on June 2nd and Halton County will operate as a unit to do its share to help raise a portion of this large amount. Everyone will be given an opportunity of investing for victory and sharing in the huge task to knock out Hitlerism.

Eramosa Council Will Co-operate in War Drives

The council for the township of Eramosa met on Monday. Present were Rev. D. D. Gray in the chair, councilors Wm. Pinkney, Ernest H. Benham, Roy I. Leslie and Joseph R. Rutherford.

Moved by Messrs. Pinkney and Leslie and carried: That this council co-operate to the fullest extent in the Canada War Loan campaign, as requested by the Provincial Prime Minister, and arrange for a canvass of the township at an early date, and that a proclamation be issued requesting the flying of flags etc. to inaugurate the start of the loan drive.

Moved by Messrs. Rutherford and Benham and carried: That the collector be authorized to continue efforts to have the remaining arrears of taxes paid as soon as possible using the office of the Bailiff where necessary and that this council appreciate the co-operation of the ratepayers who have made payments of arrears during 1941.

Moved by Messrs. Benham and Rutherford and carried: That the old township road graded at present on the Everton road diamond be turned over to the Salvage Committee of the Rockwood Red Cross Society for sale as scrap, the proceeds to be used in the War Efforts of the Red Cross.

Moved by Messrs. Leslie and Pinkney and carried: That the Rockwood Territorial Society be authorized to remove the cement bases for the guns, when the guns are scrapped, if the society wishes to do so in caring for the grounds.

Moved by Messrs. Pinkney and Benham and carried: That the council having inspected the Sutherland complaint about a ditch, recommend no action taken and that correspondence in connection with ditch on fourth line be placed on file.

Correspondence from the Department of Highways approved the road contract for 1941.

Moved by Messrs. Leslie and Pinkney and carried: That accounts amounting to \$549.49 be passed for payment and Council adjourn to meet Monday, June 2nd, at 1:30 p.m. S. T. as a Court of Revision and for Council business.

Improvement At Main Entrance Beardmore Plant

Extensive changes and improvements are underway these days at the entrance to the Beardmore Co. plant here. Since moving the general office to Acton a few years ago the office quarters of this plant, and officials here have been very crowded. In general revision of the office arrangements this condition is being rectified. The Fox Parga had an opportunity yesterday to see the general lay-out.

New general offices, better lighted and heated, more conveniently arranged and of a size to date for the staff are under construction. Private offices for executives are also part of the new scheme. While the staff is present working in cramped quarters, the new arrangements will make a great improvement at this largest of Acton's industries.

Another improvement is the grading of the vacant lot just outside the entrance gates and providing a place for the parking of employees' cars. This of course is also under construction at the present time but will add much to the plant's arrangements.

J. M. McDONALD CHOSEN OFFICER SAFETY ASSOCIATION

Mr. J. M. McDonald, Beardmore & Company Limited, Acton, was elected vice-president of the Leather, Rubber and Tanners Safety Association at their quarterly meeting at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, on Tuesday.

Several very expensive accidents were discussed and the meeting asked that pressure be brought to bear on those industries that had too many accidents, because experience showed that it was possible to control accident frequency.

A safety survey of the tanneries in Ontario was approved by the association and will be carried out under the direction of the Industrial Accident Prevention Association, beginning at once.

Various Branches Of Halton W.M.S. Present Report

The spring meeting of the Executive of the W.M.S. of Halton Presbytery was held on Tuesday, May 6th, in the United Church parsonage, Louisville.

The morning devotions were conducted by the president, Mrs. Earl Wilson, who also presided at both sessions. The afternoon devotions were in charge of Mrs. Fox. Miss A. Blanshard was appointed the new member of the Finance Committee. The names of Mrs. Coulson, Mrs. C. Ford and Mrs. L. Shaver were added to the executive.

Speakers for 1941 were appointed, viz. Mrs. H. Caldwell, Mrs. J. Chapman, Mrs. P. Lamb and Mrs. A. Boswell. Mrs. W. A. Stame and Mrs. F. McNevin reported on the coming rallies to be held at Ballinacree and Burlington. An announcement was made of the meeting of the Dominion Board meeting in Toronto. Members are asked to attend one of the sessions if possible. The treasurer reported the sum of \$850.91 sent to the branch treasurer for the first quarter of 1941. New organizations were reported by the C.G.E.T. secretary at Acton, Burlington and Waterdown. The Baby Band secretary reported that a special gift from the Georgetown Baby Band would be sent to China with Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Agnew on their return to China.

Several W.M.S. presidents attended the executive and each reported on her auxiliary. A letter of appreciation was directed to be sent to Mrs. Muck for her kindness in attending the books for 1940. Miss Blanshard was appointed auditor for 1941.

Beardmore Co. Distribute Bonus To All Employees

The usual pay-day business of Acton was stimulated beyond usual last week by the distribution of a bonus of good proportion to all employees of the Beardmore Co. plant in Acton. When it is remembered that between 250 and 300 are employed in this industry here, distribution of the bonus made Acton a busy spot with a sizeable turnover of money on the week-end.

A feature of the distribution of the bonus that will assist in the War effort and make a splendid investment for the recipients was that forty per cent of the amount received was in War Savings Certificates. The bonus helped both present and future.

Weekly War Commemorative

Specially Written for The Acton Free Press by
BY H. H. GORDON
Canadian Staff Writer

The Battle of the Atlantic

The major battle of the war in this 80th week since hostilities began, London has just disclosed that during April 108 British, Allied and neutral ships were sunk, representing a total of 488,124 tons.

From the start of the war to end of April 1,442 British, Allied and neutral ships aggregating 5,961,044 tons were sunk. Statistics show that 1,008 ships were lost in the 12-month period since the Nazi invasion of the Low Countries. These vessels represented a total of 4,731,407 tons. In addition to the fall in the Battle of the Atlantic, British losses in the Dunkerque evacuation in May and June, 1940, and the withdrawal from Greece last month. The total of 4,731,407 tons compares with 5,439,000 tons sunk in 1917, the top year of Germany's submarine campaign in the First Great War.

Not Worst Month

April losses of 488,124 tons, the Admiralty disclosed, were surpassed in only two previous months in the year June, 1940, when 453,382 tons were sent to the bottom and March of this year, when the total reached 489,225.

The April total, still substantially below the high of April, 1917, which was 840,000 tons, included 187,654 tons sunk in the recent "intensive operations" in the Mediterranean Sub-tropical area.

With the Greek withdrawal losses omitted, the tonnage sunk was less than in any period except May, 1940, when losses were 238,650.

The 1917 Record

A survey of losses during 1917 when the Kaiser's U-boats were enjoying their greatest run of success shows that there is no reason for discouragement in the ship losses of 1941.

In that year the total tonnage lost went below 300,000 only during January and November. During eight months it was with painful exactness over the 400,000 mark, and in March, April, May and June it was substantially over 500,000 tons.

Yet the following year, a tight-roped convoy system, and the co-operation of the Royal Navy with the United States Navy cut those losses sharply. Only twice in February and March, 1918 did the tonnage loss of the Allies exceed 300,000, although it ran over 200,000 a month. Still it represented a 60 to 70 per cent cut over the losses of the preceding year.

In the present war the average monthly losses have been varied, but generally below the mark of the First Great War. It remains to be seen now whether Britain will be able to check, as she did once before, the depredations at sea that threaten her life-lines. There, for the moment, as both Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt have pointed out, lies the greatest battle of the war.

R. A. F. On Top

Rashid Ali's appeals to Hitler for help in Iraq went unheeded and unconfirmed rumors that the pro-Nazi premier had fled from Baghdad were current at the weekend. The general situation in the country was much better from the British standpoint with troops mopping up the Habshanyah area. Armored cars, ammunition trucks and other Iraq war materials were captured by the British.

The Royal Air Force now dominates the air and a Cairo communiqué of May 9 indicated that Iraqi troops have been bombed out of Rutbah air base as well as Habshanyah. Informal cables in London, commenting on Ankara reports that an Iraq rebel minister had requested Turkey to mediate, declared that Britain will demand cessation of all hostilities before considering any such request.

Sandstorms and Rain

Sandstorms and intense heat are aiding Imperial troops in resisting the German-Italian thrust at Egypt. While the spearhead of the advance is stalled around Salum, inside the Egyptian frontier, Australian and British troops at Tobruk, further west, are holding the strongly-fortified port. After filtering a short distance through the outer defenses, the Axis forces were thrown back at the week-end held only a small corner of the fortified position.

Some 30,000 Italians are still holding out in Ethiopia and despite heavy seasonal rains South African forces are gradually dislodging them from

Acton Legion Holds Ladies' Night Make Presentation

At the regular meeting of the Acton Branch Canadian Legion Wednesday evening the members entertained the ladies.

Lt.-Col. Gray was invited to full membership. President G. H. Muscille called on the lady member of the branch to read a presentation address and Paul President W. J. Gould to make presentation of the "Past" President's Jewel to Immediate Past President Bud McDonald. Comrade Gould also made a presentation of a silver cigarette case, a personal gift from the members to Bud. Mr. McDonald's remarks were few but potent.

Miss Hicketts entertained the gathering with vocal numbers by the prize winners of the music festival, which was very much enjoyed by all. Com. McDonald presented a Union Jack to the Legion which had been donated by Mr. Anus Mason.

Luncheon was served by Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Alkison. Orchestra numbers by T. Landsborough, C. Mason, R. Spielvogel and George Smith were much enjoyed. C. Landsborough rendered a solo: "Jumps with the Light Brown Hair," Hartley Cole of Georgetown also rendered a vocal solo. Bingo games for the ladies ended a jolly social evening.

FLAG CEREMONY AT MISSION BAND MONTHLY MEETING

On the first day of May, the monthly meeting of Victoria Mission Band of Knox Church was held in the chess room of the church with a splendid attendance.

This was a meeting of special significance with the flag ceremony conducted by the boys' group of the Band. The theme of the program was "giving."

John Runley, as president, was in charge of the meeting and those assisting were Jimmie Spielvogel, Melbourne Blow, Kenneth Mann, Jimmie Green, Andrew Beer, Buddy Armstrong, Billie Samerville, Ronnie Job, Ronnie Ryder, Joyce Hessestall sang a solo.

Business Men Discuss Housing And Other Matters

While the meeting on Tuesday evening was certainly not representative of Acton Business Men's Association, the small group present discussed and gave action on many subjects of vital interest to Acton.

The housing situation in Acton was one that received attention. Members reported on some difficulties that had arisen and were receiving attention. Mr. J. H. Creighton had worked out a schedule of costs showing the exact amount per month that the various types of residences would cost, and the initial payments necessary.

Extension of rural telephone services for Acton, and a review of the work on this item; the necessity for paving No. 25 highway from Acton to Milton and many other questions were dealt with at this meeting.

CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS AT THE FREE PRESS OFFICE

In order that the entire staff of The Free Press may enjoy a weekly half holiday the office will be closed on Saturday afternoons during the remainder of May, and in June, July and August. The office will be open on Friday evenings from 7 until 9 p.m., instead of the hours usual on Saturdays.

Bowling-Tennis Officers Elected For Year 1941

A year of successful operation was reviewed when Acton Lawn Bowling and Tennis Club held their annual meeting last Thursday evening. The year closed with a small balance on hand. Preparations are now underway for opening the grounds for the present season. Officers were chosen as follows for the year: President, Col. A. O. T. Beardmore; Hon. Vice-Presidents, W. J. Gould, S. G. Bennett; President, J. M. McDonald; First Vice-President, R. H. Elliott; Second Vice-President, Dr. W. G. Cullen; Secretary-Treasurer, R. B. Batty; Chairman, Bowling Committee, Thos. Walton; Chairman, Tennis Committee, Jas. Ross.

Lord Barnby Appreciates Municipality's Co-operation

EDUCATIONAL CONVENOR DIRECTS MEETING OF GIRLS' GUILD

The regular meeting of Knox Mary E. Moore Girls' Guild was held on Wednesday evening, April 30th, at the home of Mary Ritchie. After the business, Doris Blow, Educational Conventor, took charge and the Scripture was read by Tom Hanson and Mrs. McLeod led in prayer. A paper was given by Marguerite Rowell, and Joyce DeSoreau gave a solo. Mrs. Munprize spoke and Taps was sung. After a short work period, during which the meeting was handed back to the President Margaret McPhail, lunch was served by the conventor of the committee in charge.

LEGION DANCE DREW GOOD CROWD LUCKY DRAW HELD

The dance under Acton Legion auspices last Friday evening, was well attended. Pte. W. Cox of Acton was the winner of watch, tickets on which were sold for war relief work. Mr. J. Chapman conducted the draw and Miss Blued drew the lucky numbers. Gibson-Boyd and his Orchestra provided the music.

Rev. Mr. Foreman Chairman of the Halton Presbytery

Resolutions Regarding Sabbath Observance and Waste Through Liquor Traffic Are Passed

The Presbytery of Halton met for the May meeting in the United Church, Louisville, on Tuesday, May 6th at 10 a.m. Ministers and lay representatives were present from all the churches in the Presbytery. The work of the Presbytery as reviewed in preparation for the annual meeting of the Hamilton Conference to be held in McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, May 26 to 31.

The election of Presbytery officers resulted in the appointment of Rev. A. O. W. Foreman, B.A., Ballinacree, as chairman, Rev. R. F. Mercer, of Appleby, as secretary, and Rev. D. A. Fley, B.A., as treasurer, for the ensuing conference year, 1941 and 1942. Rev. D. B. Gallagher, B.A., B.D., of Oakville, and Rev. J. O. Tolton, of Hornby, are the Presbytery's nominees to the settlement committee.

Rev. R. W. O'Brien, convener of the Christian Education Committee reported success of Arthur Charles Dayton in his year's work at Emmanuel College, having won first class honors in his first year, in Theology and the Ryerson prize in General Proficiency. The other candidates for the ministry who is in his final year in Arts has supplied the work at Glen Williams while taking his work at Victoria College.

The Presbytery adopted unanimously the report of the committee on the work of evangelism and social service which was as follows:

We note with satisfaction the success of the efforts of the Lord's Day Alliance in their defence of the sanctity of the Sabbath, and express our appreciation of their successful opposition to the operation of Sunday excursion trains. We commend the Alliance to the hearty support of our church.

We again deplore the criminal waste of the liquor traffic in these trying days when the highest efficiency is necessary in every effort to prosecute the war. We affirm our opposition to the use of alcoholic beverages and would call upon our people to create such a strength of public opinion as will compel our government, as the government did in the Great War, to enact total prohibition for the duration of this war. We would urge that all our churches earnestly support the Ontario Temperance Federation.

We believe that the present day trends and problems call for a note in our preaching that sometimes has not been emphasized. People are bewildered and we know many who are not sure what they believe. The time calls for a definite affirmation of the truths for which we stand, such an affirmation as will lead people to say, "This I know, I am sure of Christ my Savior and I believe in God, and it is my definite purpose to express this belief in my daily living."

This report was presented by Rev. P. C. Overend of Georgetown.

Letter from England to Town Council Received by Council—Insurance Matters Again Under Discussion—Building By-Law to be Studied—Premier Hepburn Requested Town to Co-operate in War Loan Campaign.

The regular meeting of Acton Council was held on Monday evening, Councilors F. J. Davison, A. Mason, J. M. McDonald and E. J. Jones were present, with E. J. H. Chalmers, presiding.

The accident insurance policies were discussed at some length, and it was decided to return to A. E. Wilson the policy that his company had presented, as at the present time Acton was covered by an Imperial policy. It was decided also that an Imperial representative be invited by a council meeting to explain some items in the various policies carried by the town. Some points were not clear to all members of the council.

The eighth report of the Finance Committee as presented and accounts thereon recommended for payment was as follows:

Two of Equipping, snow plow \$ 500
Acton Free Press, printing and advertising 119.00
E. Harrop, postage 91
J. McCallum, work 2.00
Jack Kentner, work 3.00
J. Minn, work 21.25

The Clerk presented a number of different by-laws pertaining to building. It was decided to have this matter over until another meeting and have a committee study these by-laws, so that a report could be brought in at the next meeting.

The members of this committee were Councilors A. Mason, J. M. McDonald, E. J. H. Chalmers, Clerk C. F. Leatherland, Chief E. Harrop. This committee could consult any of the builders it deemed necessary to help them in formulating a building by-law favorable to Acton.

The clerk was instructed to write the insurance company, releasing them from any further obligation after the change of the treasurership to Mr. Theoford from himself, but not before that date.

Mr. C. Anderson was present and had before the council the plans for his new crematory building. The council was very pleased with the building and offered to be of any assistance possible to Mr. Anderson.

The clerk read a letter from Lord Barnby from England, who is head of the Wood Combining Corporation of Canada, Ltd. The letter read as follows:

10th, Parliament Street, London, SW1, 10th April, 1941.

My Dear Sir:

I find on going through my notes, I have omitted to act on an intention which I had left Canada in November. It was that I would make up for the omission of a call on you personally, and on the May 9, by sending a letter of courtesy and greeting. This thought was instigated by my last visit to the new wool combing establishment which we have been instrumental in starting in your town.

My wish was to express appreciation for the ready assistance, which I understand you extended to Mr. Markon and his associates. Naturally as Chairman of the Company I feel grateful too. I hope as they approach full momentum, it will be appreciated that they are bringing useful activity to the Town. Our interests are now closely associated.

I take this opportunity of conveying to you warmest greetings from this country.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
BARNBY

Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Can. (cont.)
The following are charged, in cents per line, with a minimum charge for any announcement of 5c.

Annual Dance of Lakeside Chapter L.O.D.E. in Acton Town Hall, Thursday, May 15th. Music by Gibson-Boyd and his Orchestra, Nibelius, refreshments.