

Worst Snow Storm In Years Paralyzes Traffic in District

Will Require Days of Digging Out Before Roads Are Open Again

One of the worst blizzards that has been experienced in years started on Tuesday morning and by late afternoon the heavy west gale had packed in the loose snow until drifts were packed tight that disrupted travel by any means. Snow was with the heavy wind and added to the accumulation already down-made conditions that are most unusual.

Weekly War Commentary

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

A new battlefield is shaping up in North Africa as the Allies pound Axis positions and the strongholds of Bizerte and Tunis by air while waiting for the end of the rainy season which has made progress on the ground almost impossible.

The enemy is believed to have mustered by air and sea an army of about 70,000 men in Tunisia. In addition to the remnants of Marshal Rommel's force being chased westward across the desert by the veteran British 8th army.

The Allies also have been reinforcing their troops from both Britain and the United States. They have been moving forward as fast as possible over difficult terrain in preparation for the showdown to come.

With the advance contingents will be Canadian officers and non-commissioned officers attached temporarily to British units so that they can gain actual battle experience in arms in Britain when they return after a few months. In addition Canadian airmen are with R.A.F. units in the forward areas both as fighters and ground crews.

When the battle breaks, probably about the middle of next month—the usual time for the rains to moderate and the ground to dry—the Axis will have another major front on its hands. The effect of African air action already has been to take Nazi planes away from the Russian front and full-scale fighting will undoubtedly divert more.

Diversion in Britain (The Nazis, seeking to counteract the growing Allied air strength in Africa have resorted to the derisory measure of sending a few raiders at a time in hit-and-run blows at the south coast of Britain.)

These raids follow no particular pattern but are directed mainly against the civilian population. Their usefulness from the German standpoint is that they hold down in Britain a large number of interceptor aircraft which might be used elsewhere as fighter escorts for bombing raids or in attacking forces.

Nevertheless, despite these Nazi counter-measures, the Allied air offensive against Axis-occupied Europe both in the north and south has been gaining steadily in scope. Hardly a night passes without British and Canadian bombers striking at Axis industries in the north and hardly a day without British, Canadian and American fighters preying on Axis transportation facilities in the north. In the south both British and American bombers smash at Italian industries and port facilities.

In addition to these aerial strokes—some of them aimed at the Axis submarine nests on the Atlantic coast to halt a rise in Allied transport sinkings—British submarines have been enjoying increasing success in wearing down Axis transport fleets in the Mediterranean.

All these efforts—apart from Russia's great offensive—are in preparation for what promises to be one of the major Allied offensives of the war, an offensive which may be succeeded in the summer by a thrust—perhaps spearheaded by the newly-completed Canadian army—against Northern Europe.

Threat to Rostov Russian armies in the Middle Don area and the Caucasus were reported at the week-end to be smashing German resistance and the threat to Rostov developed with each advance. Rostov is the gateway to the Caucasus and the hub of German operations in southern Russia.

Col. Gen. Nikolai F. Vatutin's Soviet army, moving southward to the Middle Don has cut the Moscow-Rostov railway at Gubokaya, 90 miles northeast of Rostov, while Soviet forces driving from the west have reached a point only 60 miles from the city.

With shortened lines and the great network of railways in the Donets basin at his command, Hitler hopes to hold Rostov against the Russian winter offensive. If the Red armies are successful in capturing the city, the objective will be gained only after some of the heaviest fighting of the war.

Reeve J. M. McDonald Elected Warden of Halton

Election of Acton's Representative Made Unanimous at Session of Council on Tuesday—Committees Appointed and By-Laws Passed at Inaugural Meeting. Councillors Asked to Consider Rural Income Tax Plan.

Mr. J. M. McDonald, Reeve of Acton, was elected Warden of Halton County for 1943, at the inaugural meeting of Halton County Council held in Milton last Tuesday.

Nominations were as follows: J. M. McDonald, moved by Mr. Blair, seconded by Mr. Near, Norman Gilbert, moved by Mr. Craig, seconded by Dr. Heslop. Mr. Gilbert expressed appreciation for his nomination but asked permission to withdraw his name in favor of Mr. McDonald as he felt it was a good many years since Acton had had a representative to officiate as Warden of the County. Mr. McDonald's election was thus made unanimous. The Warden-elect then made his declaration of office before his Honor Judge Munro.

Owing to bad roads and weather conditions only eight members were present at the council meeting. However it was decided to proceed with the business of the day.

It was moved by Mr. Blair, seconded by Mr. Near, that the members of the Council present be a committee to strike the standing committees for the year 1943.—Carried.

The recommendation as contained in the report of the Striking Committee were as follows, the first named in each case being chairman: Finance—Blair, Campbell, Gilbert, Hall, Murray.

Printing—Brown, Campbell, Craig, Smith. County Buildings—Heslop, May, Blair, Hillmer, Craig. Hospital Accounts—Robertson, Heslop, Hillmer, Hall. Railways, Legislation and Agriculture—May, Robertson, Gilbert, Near. Special Communications—Near, Brown, Smith, Hillmer.

Good Roads—Gilbert, May, Near, Robertson, Heslop. The report was adopted. The following gentlemen were appointed to the various High School Boards for 1943 to 1945—Milton, Ed. Mahon; Oakville, Reg. M. Smith; Burlington, Gordon J. Campbell.

Other appointments were as follows: Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Campbell, as representatives from Halton County Council to the Board of the Children's Aid Society for 1943. Dr. Heslop appointed to the Good Roads Committee for the years 1943 to 1947.

Alex. Near appointed to the Good Roads Committee to fill the unexpired term of Harold Cleave for the years 1943-45. The Ex-Warden, John Blair, and the Warden, Mr. J. M. McDonald, appointed as Commissioners to the House of Refuge for the year 1943.

Mr. D. Hartley and Norman Craig were appointed to the Old Age Pensions and Mothers' Allowance Board for 1943. The committee on printing called for tenders for printing 100 copies of the minutes, 100 copies of the auditors' report. Time limit placed at January 15th, 1944.

The following by-laws were introduced, given three readings and passed: 1.—To appoint auditors of the accounts for 1942. 2.—A by-law to authorize the borrowing of money to meet the expenditures for the year 1943. 3.—A by-law to introduce members of the County Board of Audit. 4.—A by-law to provide for the total expenditures on the system of county roads for 1943.

It was moved by Gilbert and Heslop that a rate of 10c per mile traveled for county purposes be paid to councillors.—Carried. Moved by Heslop and Gilbert: That \$145.74 hospital accounts be paid.—Carried. The Warden handed to each member of the council a brief of the Rural "Pay-as-You-Go" plan and asked them to give it their serious consideration. This was done in accordance with a request from the ratepayers of the Village of Acton. Council adjourned.

MINERALS IN WATER Water during its circulation from ocean and back to ocean gradually dissolves various mineral salts from the soil and becomes the most important of all mineral resources since life cannot, and few industries, if any, can function without its aid, says Agricultural and Industrial Progress.



REEVE J. M. McDONALD

of Acton lands another Big One and was chosen Warden of Halton for this year. This is the only photograph we could secure of Reeve McDonald and it is doubtful if this photo would have been taken if he hadn't been displaying the 32-lb. trout he landed in Northern Ontario, on one of his fishing trips. He hasn't been in municipal affairs as long as he's been fishing but at both he got along. Acton citizens are proud of the honor conferred on their representative.

Boys Overseas Write to War Service League

Fifty-six letters and postcards and airgraph letters have been received by Acton and Vicinity War Service League since the last lot enumerated a few weeks ago in The Free Press column. That gives some indication of the appreciation of the boys overseas who receive parcels regularly from this local organization.

Pte. G. L. Aldridge says "I cannot express thanks enough." C.S.M. Jack Algor writes "I want you to know that I do appreciate all you people are doing for us." Sigm. W. H. Barber writes "As I smoke the cigarettes I will think of the good old home town and the very kind and thoughtful people."

Pte. Gordon Babcock in a nice news letter says, "They are a good mine to us here and I wish to thank you very much." And Gordon underlines the word very. He is in hospital but getting about on crutches and recovering from a leg injury. And Pte., Gordon Cook (Cookie) says, "They certainly did arrive at an opportune time—Happy here, but certainly miss everyone at home."

Norman Gibson writes to thank all who are supporting this fine contribution to Acton Service Men, "best wishes and chin up." Tpr. Arthur Gamble, "I was on my last package of Canadian cigarettes so you know what a life-saver your gift was." And so it goes through those cards and letters, but all we can do is give you a list of the remainder of the names of Acton and District boys who have written.

Pte. T. W. Godfrey, Gnr. F. C. French, Gnr. J. B. Filat, Pte. Bill Fields, Pte. P. A. Elliott, Pte. W. R. Elliott, Pte. C. W. Douglas, Sgt. E. A. Clifford, Pte. W. Cassidy, Rtn. I. F. Bragg, Tpr. W. H. Carnohan, Pte. G. A. Belraes, Pte. T. J. Holmes, Pte. R. J. Irwin, Sigm. F. W. Jones, Pte. A. A. Johnson, Pte. F. Kemezy, Seaman Len Lambert, Pte. G. C. Lambert, Pte. E. A. Massey, Pte. A. G. Martin, Gnr. W. Lamb, Pte. Michael McMillan, L/C. A. L. McInyre, L/C. G. McKewen, Tpr. J. McHugh, Gnr. K. A. McDonald, Gnr. Tom Nicol, Pte. M. J. Nicolak, L/C. N. W. McNabb, Cpl. P. Purdy, Pte. Geo. Stringer, Pte. Geo. W. Stroyan, L/C. J. Scriven, Pte. Sgt. Fred Turner, Pte. Herb Taylor, Sgt. F. Terry, Pte. Turkoos, Pte. F. S. Toupinour, Sigm. Geo. W. Williams, Pte. H. Woods, Pte. J. D. Young, LAC. Frank Van Wyck.

The Week at OTTAWA

Specially Written for The Acton Free Press by BY DOUGLAS GREEN Canadian Press Staff Writer

The possibility that Canadian farmers may be able to utilize for at least eight months the services of men found to be medically unfit when called for military service is seen here as a likely result of new manpower regulations now being considered by the cabinet.

There have been forecasts that cabinet has amendment providing for the compulsory transfer in civilian employment of men in age groups subject to military service who are rejected for medical reasons.

It is understood that one proposed change in the manpower regulations would permit farmers to leave their farms for other employment in "off seasons" without the necessity of first obtaining work permits from national selective service authorities, and that the period during which they may undertake such employment will be enlarged from 30 to 60 days. Such an amendment, if approved, would enable farmers to relieve temporary shortages of labor in their districts.

Women's Land Army Meantime, Selective Service Director Arthur MacNamara has indicated that the labor department will be "glad" to consider a suggestion put forward by K. C. McDonald, British Columbia's minister of agriculture, that a women's land army, like that now working in Great Britain, be formed to lessen the labor shortages now facing farmers in that province.

Mr. McDonald has recommended to Labor Minister Mitchell that farmers and their sons be left on the land as essential to the war effort, and conscientious objectors be directed to farm labor where they are experienced farmers and that student labor be organized and trained along semi-military lines.

So far, the federal labor department has not announced what, if any, action it plans to take upon Mr. McDonald's proposals. Canada's manpower situation is expected to be discussed on Page Three.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS OF UNITED CHURCH ELECTS OFFICERS

The Adult Bible Class of the Acton United Church held their election of officers last week. The following officers were elected: President—Mrs. A. T. Brown. Vice-President—Mrs. S. J. Reid. Teacher—Rev. A. W. Fosbury. Assistant Teachers—Mrs. A. T. Brown, J. W. Burberree. Sec. Treas.—Evan Jones. Visiting Committee—Mrs. and Mrs. Nelson Lambert, Mrs. L. Armstrong, J. H. Denny.

St. Alban's Vestry Meeting Shows Year of Progress

The annual Vestry Meeting of St. Alban's Congregation was held on Monday, January 18th. The financial report showed the church completely free of debt with the mortgage discharged during the year, all current obligations met, and missionary appointment over-paid.

Mr. George Chapman, retiring church warden was appointed Hon. Rector's Warden. Mr. Brooks appointed Mr. H. L. Ritchie his Warden for 1943 and the congregation elected Mr. B. W. Pargeter by acclamation for the seventh consecutive year. Mr. W. J. O. Oakea was elected Lay Delegate to the Diocesan Synod for a period of three years.

Very satisfactory reports were received from the Women's Auxiliary, St. Alban's Guild, the Sunday School, etc. Reference was made by the Rector to Mrs. J. L. Ritchie his Warden for 1942 had seen more children baptized than any other year in the history of the parish. There had been 27 baptisms, and 6 burials during the year; there are 68 names on the honor roll with more than half of them overseas. Reference was made to memorials shortly to be placed in the church in memory of departed members. Increases were shown in Rector's attendance, while attention was drawn to the fact that all who had not communicated the required number of times could not regard themselves as being in good standing as members.

Plans were made to carry out extensive repairs to the interior of the Rectory during the new year. Rev. Sgt. Fred Turner, Pte. Herb Taylor, Sgt. F. Terry, Pte. Turkoos, Pte. F. S. Toupinour, Sigm. Geo. W. Williams, Pte. H. Woods, Pte. J. D. Young, LAC. Frank Van Wyck.

WILL REVIVE OLD MINSTREL SHOW FOR WAR FUNDS EFFORTS

In an effort to raise funds to continue the work of Acton and Vicinity War Service League, a group of citizens have organized Acton minstrels who plan to put on a big local minstrel show on March third and fourth. Committees were appointed as follows and are now at work on the production which will include a one-act farce and a minstrel program.

Directing Committee—G. A. Dill, M. M. Leitch, Mr. Bean. Publicity Committee—W. Coles, B. D. Itacilla. Finance Committee—W. H. Clayton, W. K. Graham.

Committee in charge of musical part of minstrels—F. J. Salt and Geo. Muselle. Director of Orchestra—A. Mason. Committee to arrange for play—Kirkness, Geo. Mason. Make-up and Costumes—L. Kerzic. Committee on Minstrel Dialogue—H. Spillvogel, C. Leishman, Grenville Masales, W. Coles.

Blocked Roads Make Adjournment Of Fair Meeting

Blocked roads interfered with the annual meeting of Acton Fall Fair held yesterday afternoon and in view of the small attendance and the fact that some of the officials were unable to reach town the members assembled by motion adjourned until Saturday at 1:30 p.m. to conduct the business usual at the annual meeting.

In view of the many changed conditions this year that the Fair will be confronted with it is advisable that as full an attendance of members as possible should be at the meeting. The meeting of the new Board of Directors is held immediately following the annual meeting. Indications are that in spite of the wet weather encountered last year, a very good financial statement will be presented to the meeting.

KNOX Y. W. A. INSTALS OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR

The January meeting of Knox Y. W. A. was held at the home of the President Mrs. Robt. O'Hara, on the second Wednesday night with a good attendance. The first business was in charge with Mrs. Becker and Mrs. J. Ingles in charge of the devotion. Rev. Forbes Thomson was present and took charge of the installation of the officers for the ensuing year, and also addressed the members, using as his text the "Story of the Good Samaritan," expressing the desire that the members accept this example as a foundation for our personal missionary work particularly on the home front.

A short business period followed discussing several items of routine to follow. The treasurer presented a full report of last year's finances which was very gratifying. Mrs. Francis Wilds offered her home for the February meeting.

An invitation was received from the Friendly Circle of the United Church, to visit them on Thursday night, January 21st, at a social evening. Following the closing of the meeting a social time followed when lunch was served by the hostess and her committee of Mrs. F. Thomson, Mrs. Becker and Mrs. Jas. Ingles.

In Memoriam Certificates Presented At Knox W. M. S.

A well attended meeting of Knox Presbyterian W.M.S. was held at the home of the president, Mrs. F. Blow presiding. The meeting opened with the devotional period conducted by Mrs. E. Barr and Mrs. W. Gould. An interesting part of the meeting was the ceremony of installing the new executive for 1943. This was done with fitting dignity by Rev. Forbes Thomson. An unanimous hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mrs. W. J. Gould for the faithful discharge of her duties as secretary for the past six years, to which Mrs. Gould replied in a most fitting manner, expressing the great pleasure she had in being a help to the society, however humble it may have been. Another item of interest was the presentation of two "In Memoriam Certificates," one in memory of Mrs. Thos. Gray presented by her daughter, Miss Laura Gray and the other presented by the members of the Auxiliary in memory of Mrs. A. McPherson, Mrs. Wm. Thompson, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Thos. Rumley and Mrs. Thos. Scott.

Mrs. H. Mainprize gave a very interesting paper entitled "New Year's Meditation." After the close of the usual routine a dainty lunch and a social time was spent.

Hugh McKay Dies from Injuries Sustained Monday

Was in Collision With Rear of Dairy Truck at Main Street Garage

Following an accident in which he was in collision with the rear of the truck of Masales Dairy on Monday, Mr. Hugh McKay passed away last night at the General Hospital in Guelph, where he had been taken immediately after the accident.

The accident occurred at Norman McEachern's garage on Main Street, when Mr. Masales was backing his delivery truck out from the garage. In some manner, Mr. McKay, who was totally blind, came in collision with the rear of the truck. He was knocked to the ground and found beneath the chassis when the car was stopped. He sustained several broken ribs, chest injuries and injuries to his left ankle, shown by examination at the hospital.

Until last night his progress seemed satisfactory and hopes were held for his recovery. However about ten o'clock he passed away quite suddenly.

The vanGoozen-Swackhamer Wedding At Maple Hill Farm

On January sixteenth at three o'clock a pretty wedding was solemnized under an arch of evergreens, white bells and streamers which made a lovely setting for the marriage ceremony of Mary Isabel, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Swackhamer, Churchill, and Dirk Curtis, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. vanGoozen, Acton.

After entering to the strains of Traumerel played by Mrs. Chris Swackhamer, Acton, the ceremony was performed by Rev. A. O. W. Foreman at the home of the bride's parents, Maple Hill Farm, Churchill.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, wearing a lovely gown of white shellie brocaded satin with sweetheart neckline and long torso, also a gold locket, gift of the groom. The train-length veil which had been worn by her sister-in-law, Mrs. Chris Swackhamer was of embroidered silk net, caught with orange blossoms to form a halo. She carried a white Bible with a corsage of pink roses, forget-me-nots and white streamers.

Mary Curtis, cousin of the groom, as bridesmaid, was gowned in pastel pink, bodice of lace over taffeta and full skirt of net over taffeta with turquoise trim, carrying an arm bouquet of pink carnations and ferns. The flower girl, Nadine Swackhamer, niece of the bride and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Swackhamer of Hamilton, wore a gown of dotted pink organdy, carrying a nosegay of mauve asters. Leslie Swackhamer, brother of the bride, supported the groom. During the signing of the register, Mrs. Archie Kerr sang "Because" and "Love You Truly."

The bride's mother received in a gown of brided black crepe, gold trim with a corsage of white baby mums. The groom's mother assisted in a gown of black crepe with turquoise trim and a corsage of yellow baby mums.

After the reception about thirty guests sat down to a dainty wedding supper served by Mrs. Grace Scott of Brampton, Mabel Harris and Edith Worne of Acton, followed by toasts and congratulations.

At this time a toast was proposed to the bride's parents on the occasion of their thirty-sixth wedding anniversary. A lovely table lamp was presented by the family.

The bride and groom left by train for a short wedding trip. The bride chose for travelling a rose crepe dress, brown tweed coat and matching accessories.

NUTRITION CONFERENCE PLANNED BY ACTON INSTITUTE Women's Institutes of Halton County are sponsoring Nutrition Conferences throughout the County. The Acton Branch of the Institute has planned for one of these conferences to be held here on January 26th. Session will be held in the Y.M.C.A. from 10 to 12 in the morning and from 2 to 5 in the afternoon. Miss Lois Cliphams will be the conference leader in the Acton meeting. The conferences are open for everyone and to meet war emergencies and the need for better nutrition every woman in Acton and district is cordially invited.

Mrs. W. J. Beatty Hostess for Meeting Of United W. M. S.

On January 15th a goodly number of women of the United Church attended the W.M.S. meeting at the home of Mrs. W. J. Beatty. The President, Mrs. H. Caldwell, in a few well chosen words of welcome to all, gave an outline of the activities of the society for 1943, names of the leaders for each month and place of meeting.

The financial report was most encouraging, given by the treasurer, Mrs. G. A. Dilla. Reports from Mission Band, Baby Band and C.G.I.T. were all very interesting and showed much progress.

The devotional part of the meeting was ably taken by Mrs. Fred Cleave, followed by a few "New Year's thoughts and resolutions," by Mrs. A. T. Brown. A very beautiful and helpful solo "Near to the Heart of God," was then given by Mrs. J. K. Gardiner.

"The Study Book," in charge of Mrs. Bert Howard, was intensely interesting as was the discussion so freely entered into by all present. At the conclusion of this excellent meeting a very appetizing lunch was served by Mrs. Beatty and daughter Miss Eleanor, after which hearty words of appreciation were given to Mrs. Beatty for her gracious hospitality.

Rev. A. W. Fosbury closed the meeting with prayer.

LOCAL BOWLERS RETAIN FIRST PLACE IN BOWLING LEAGUE

The McCutcheon bowlers hung on to first place in the Guelph City Major Bowling League last Thursday night although losing to Central Ontario 4-3. The McCutcheon team now lead the league by three points. A 19 point handicap the McCutcheon team had to concede their opponents gave Central Ontario all their four points as they won the first game by 17 pins and the last game by 8 pins. The Scores: O. Krull 135 201-336 C. Leshman 277 254 179-710 G. Masales 209 227 235-671 A. Sheffeld 174 261 297-732 W. Corry 228 250 177-653 N. Morton 156 156-156 McCutcheons 1021 1148 1089-3258 x Central Ontario 1038 1025 1087-3160 x—Includes 19 pins handicap per game. Central Ontario, 4; McCutcheons, 3.