

The Acton Free Press.

Sixty-Ninth Year—No. 25.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 1943

Eight Home-Print Pages—Five Cents.

Out Door Rink Presents Difficulties for Ice Surface

May Move to School Grounds or Fairy Lake as Bower Ave. Soil Unsuitable

Last year Council made a determined effort to provide an outdoor skating rink to replace the indoor surface at the arena and provide recreation for the children and young people. A late start was made and the snow came thick and heavy and seemingly without ceasing and no skating was enjoyed. But the equipment was all ready for another year.

Determined to get an early start this season the material has been in place for weeks waiting for the cold weather. Now it has been found that the ground at the site on Bower Ave. is not suitable. Big quantities of water have been poured on but only to disappear without leaving any ice surface. Everyone will agree that the weather has been cold enough. Councillor Kirkness has explored the possibilities elsewhere and two options seem to be open.

One is to make an open air rink on the ice covering Fairy Lake and have the dressing rooms on the shore in the park. There are features to this plan that do not seem in the best interests and there are difficulties in securing a hydrant close to the rink.

Another alternative that is being explored is having the rink placed in the school grounds to the east of the Public School building. To-night the School Board will meet to see if this can be arranged and in the meantime the ground is being tried out there to see if it is suitable to take the surface. Lighting and flooding conditions will be simplified if this site can be used and it is fairly well sheltered and convenient to reach from the downtown section. The children we imagine will vote for it, at least.

CHRISTMAS MEETING OF LADIES' ASSOCIATION AT MRS. H. McEACHERN'S

The December meeting of the Ladies' Association of Churchhill, was held on Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Herb McEachern. The president, Miss E. Russell was in charge of the programme. The Christmas story was read by Mrs. Herb McEachern. Mrs. F. Freeman led in prayer. Roll call was answered by scripture verses.

Mrs. Foreman took the chair for the election of officers, and the following were elected: President, Miss E. Russell; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. S. Griffin; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. H. Allen; Secretary, Mrs. Wm. Butler; Treasurer, Mrs. H. Griffin; Press Secretary, Mrs. A. Brooks; Missionary Treasurer, Mrs. A. Kerr; Flowers Committee, Mrs. H. Allen; Devotional Committee, Mrs. Foreman and Mrs. Caldwell; Visiting Committee, Miss E. Russell, Mrs. S. Swackhamer; Work Committee, Mrs. B. Leitch, Mrs. S. Swackhamer, Mrs. Blunle, Mrs. R. Kerr, and Mrs. Caldwell; Parsonage Committee, Mrs. S. Griffin and Mrs. R. Kerr.

Mrs. Foreman closed the meeting with prayer, after which a dainty lunch was served.

ACTON BOYS ENLISTED This Week's Register

George A. Johnson has enlisted in the Canadian Armored Corps of active service, and is stationed in Toronto.

United W.M.S. Had Christmas Meeting at Home of Mrs. P. Smith

The December meeting of the Women's Missionary Society of the United Church was held at the home of Mrs. Peter Smith on Tuesday. Mrs. Caldwell, the President, who has been seriously ill, was unable to be present and Mrs. S. J. Reid, first Vice-President, presided. As several of the members are ill, the attendance was not as large as last year.

After the opening exercises and business, Mrs. W. Gowdy rendered several selections and a number of Christmas carols were sung. Mrs. B. Vidula contributed a solo, Mrs. A. T. Brown gave a reading entitled "Christmas Story" and Miss M. Z. Bennett read "The Other Wise Man." Rev. A. W. Fosbury read the report of the nominating committee and the officers were elected for the coming year as follows:

Past President—Mrs. B. Mowat
President—Mrs. E. J. Caldwell
1st Vice-President—Mrs. S. J. Reid
2nd Vice-President—Mrs. Bert Mowat
3rd Vice-President—Mrs. J. R. Kennedy
Treasurer—Mrs. G. A. Dills
Rec.-Secretary—Mrs. G. H. Switzer
Cor.-Secretary—Mrs. A. T. Brown
Christian Stewardship and Finance—Mrs. A. W. Fosbury
Community Friendship—Mrs. F. Cleave
Supply—Mrs. J. Moore
Mission Band—Miss M. Z. Bennett
Baby Band—Mrs. J. Gardner
Affiliated C. G. I. T. Groups—Mrs. O. Parker
Temperance—Mrs. J. Symon
Life Membership—Mrs. T. Watson
Missionary Monthly—Miss E. Hawthorne and Mrs. T. Watson
Pianist—Mrs. J. R. Arnold
Assistant Pianist—Mrs. J. R. Kennedy
Press—Miss E. Hawthorne
Auditors—Miss M. E. Nelson and Mrs. J. Symon
Mrs. Smith and Miss Smith served a cup of tea and lunch to the ladies which was much enjoyed. A very hearty vote of thanks was given Mrs. Smith and Miss Smith for their home and hospitality.

MRS. D. RICHARDSON CHOSEN PRESIDENT OF WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The December meeting of the Women's Association of the United Church was held at the parsonage and Mrs. W. Evans, Assistant President, presided. Mrs. O. Parker gave a Christmas reading.

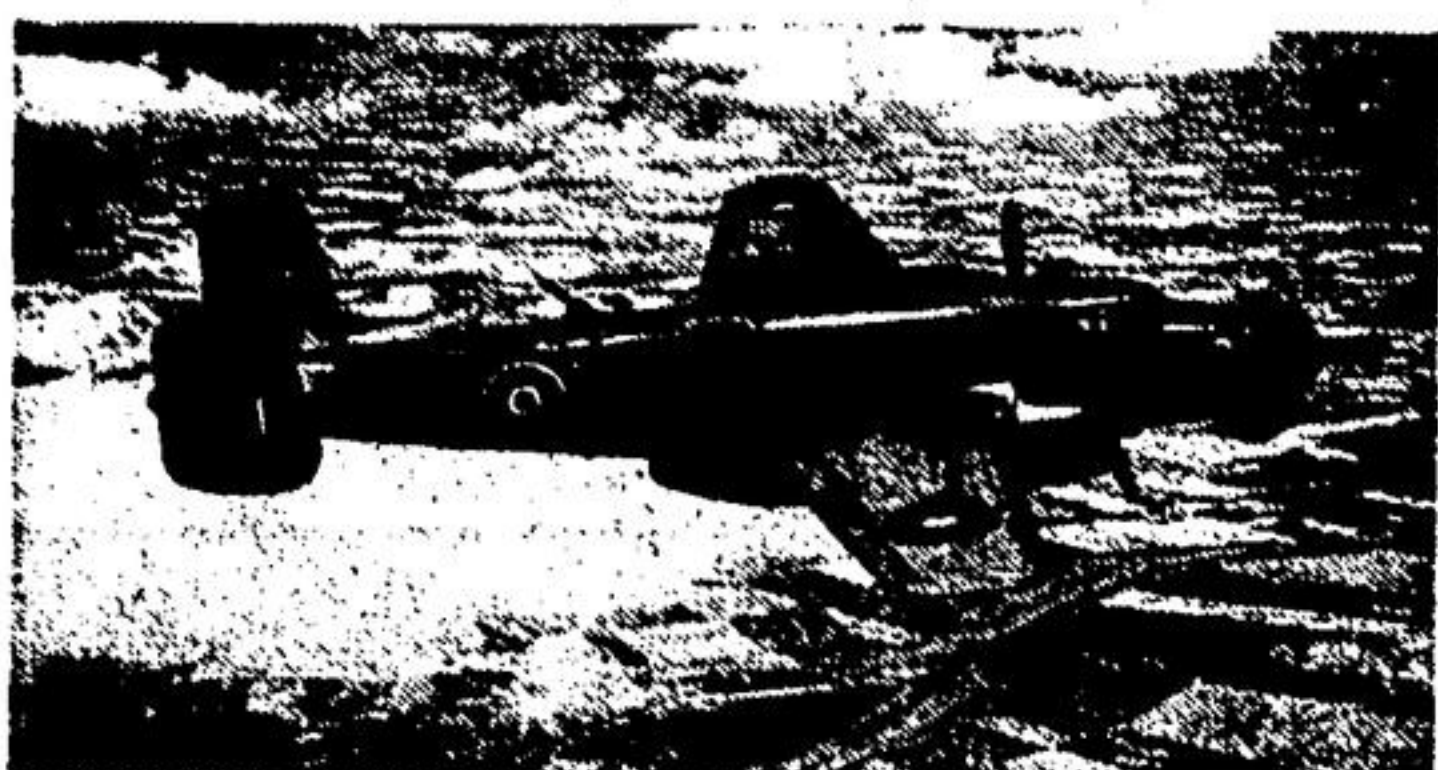
The chair was vacated and Rev. A. W. Fosbury conducted the period for the election of officers for the coming year and the following were elected:

Past Presidents—Mrs. I. Hargis and Mrs. W. Evans
President—Mrs. D. Richardson
Assistant President—Mrs. E. Jennings
1st Vice-President—Mrs. I. Harris
2nd Vice-President—Mrs. W. Evans
Secretary—Miss E. Hawthorne
Treasurer—Mrs. F. Cleave
Church Kitchen Committee—Mrs. S. Reid, Mrs. M. Walker and Mrs. Huffman
Parsonage Committee—Mrs. L. Aggar, Mrs. N. Lambert and Mrs. O. Parker
Visiting Committee—Appointed at meetings
Quill Committee—Mrs. J. Moore, Mrs. S. Reid, Mrs. N. Lambert and Mrs. J. Reid
Pianist—Mrs. A. Fryer
Assistant Pianist—Mrs. R. L. Johnson

After the business was disposed of, Mrs. Fosbury and her assistants served a dainty lunch. A vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Fosbury for her home and hospitality, also the lunch committee.

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

R.A.F.'S MITCHELL B.25



One of the first pictures to be taken of the R.A.F.'s new Mitchell B.25 day bombers in operation. These planes have been in action with great success in most of the recent big daylight raids over enemy territory. Photo shows Mitchell B.25 day bomber flying in formation.

THIS WEEK BY JOHN C. SCOTT Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO, (CP)—Ontario's labor minister—Hon. Charles Daley—thinks married women now employed in industrial work should be sent back to their homes and their proper responsibilities.

In an address here before a meeting of the Canadian Association of Personnel Publication Editors, Mr. Daley said married women with children who went into war work because they felt they were needed would welcome an opportunity to return to their homes.

There were others who were using child-care centres to unload their responsibilities. These persons would object to giving up their work but Mr. Daley suggested a realistic view be taken of the whole situation.

Emphasizing that he was expressing his own views and not necessarily those of the government in this matter, the labor minister said that had the manpower and womanpower problem been handled "it would never have been necessary to drug women out of their homes and into factories."

Mr. Daley will gain a lot of support in this suggestion that married women in war work should be returned to their homes, especially from those who attribute part of the growing problem of juvenile delinquency to the absence of both parents from the home for most of the day. Juvenile delinquency is at a minimum where children receive proper supervision in their homes.

Mr. Daley also referred to the federal government announcement that it was planning a labor code for war industry. He said if the federal code falls to cover other industries as well as war industries, Ontario will have to deal with the situation itself.

At the recent Dominion-Provincial labor conference, only Quebec had opposed the adoption of a national labor code to include all industry, he said.

"At the Ottawa conference, Quebec spoke out against it," Mr. Daley said. "I can understand why Quebec does not want a code to cover all industry. Quebec is a low cost province and they feel they have an advantage which should be preserved. But Ontario is a big industrial province and we are not going to permit our standard of living to be lowered if we can help it."

And, while on the labor question, Ontario's C. C. F. leader, E. B. Joffe, set a present conference in Detroit to the present Ontario act which provides for compulsory collective bargaining is "wholly inadequate with the ultimate power rests with judges who are violently opposed to unions and particularly C. I. O. unions."

He described the Ontario Labor Court set up under the labor bill to settle labor issues as "an impossible institution."

He believed the present Progressive-Conservative government of Ontario was committed to the abolition of the court, but said the C. C. F. has its own labor bill almost completed and that he hopes to see it introduced at the next session of the legislature.

Mr. Joffe was in Detroit to address several labor union gatherings.

SCOUT MOTHERS GROUP MAKE PLANS FOR 1944 ACTIVITIES

The regular meeting of the Scout Mothers Auxiliary was held Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Dutton. Programmes and plans for the meetings for the year 1944 were drawn up. Mrs. Watson kindly offered the use of her home for the January meeting. The meeting closed with the Mignah Benediction, after which a delightful lunch was served by the hostesses.

FORMER NORVAL MINISTER DIED IN TORONTO HOSPITAL

Rev. Ewen MacDonald, 73, died Monday in St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto. For nine years Mr. MacDonald was minister of Norval and Union Presbyterian Churches. On account of ill health, he retired in 1935 and went to Toronto to live. For some years he and Mrs. MacDonald, who died in April, 1942, resided on Riverside Drive, and attended Victoria Presbyterian Church. Prior to his Norval ministry, he was Presbyterian minister at Lennoxville, Ontario.

Son of the late Alexander MacDonald, he was a native of Prince Edward Island. In 1911 he married Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of "Anne of Green Gables" and numerous other books. Two sons, Cameron, Toronto, and Stuart, New Brunswick, survive. Interment will be at Cavendish, Prince Edward Island.

District President Guest Speaker at Scotch Block W. I.

The December meeting of the Scotch Block W. I. was held at the home of Mrs. W. A. Serlevic with the District President, Mrs. Near as guest speaker. She chose as her subject, "The Challenge of the Times, which brought out many interesting facts for the Institute worker.

Mrs. Love read a splendid motto prepared by Mrs. S. Murray. Twenty-one names were submitted of soldiers in the armed forces overseas who are eligible for a box from our branch. These boxes will be shipped immediately through the T. Eaton Co.

Thirty-five dollars was voted to the war work Treasurer to buy material to work with. Mrs. Clarke read a humorous article on Elsie, the Borden Cow. A piano solo was played by Marjorie Service and the refreshment committee served a dainty lunch which brought a pleasant afternoon to a close.

DELIVERY TRUCK BADLY BURNED AS ANTI-FREEZE IGNITED

The delivery truck of Watson's Dairy narrowly escaped destruction by fire on Tuesday morning when some of the anti-freeze solution was spilled in filling and was ignited when the engine became warm while on the delivery route. Fortunately the fire was noticed just as the truck was near the dairy on Main Street and was extinguished by using the hose available at the property.

Back in Jail After Four Days in Zero Weather

Charles Ferrier Found by Esquimaux Farmer and Offers no Resistance

Exhausted and weakened from exposure coupled with lack of food and water, Charles Ferrier, 19, who escaped from Milton County Jail in Milton last Wednesday was captured in an almost semi-conscious condition Sunday evening.

Ferrier was found hiding in the haymow of a barn on the farm of Lloyd Chisholm, Esquimaux township, five miles west of Milton, officers said. "I noticed some hay disturbed in the mow and on investigation found Ferrier hiding in a hole," Chisholm told police. "He was very weak and offered no resistance when I took him to Milton and turned him over to the provincial police," he said.

Ferrier escaped last Wednesday while engaged in cleaning the central vicar of the court house, according to officers. "He told us he remained in hiding until Thursday night, when he went to a nearby house for food," officers stated. "When he found no one at home, he returned to the Chisholm barn and remained there until found."

"During the four days, the man had neither food nor water, and was very weakened from exposure," Provincial Constable E. R. Lennon stated.

Ferrier was being held without bail on a charge of robbery with assault on Edward Cates, 72, Campbellville. "The injured man lies in a Hamilton hospital in a critical condition, according to the police."

Weekly War Commentary BY JOHN C. SCOTT Canadian Press Staff Writer

Turkey's recent alignment with the Allies, even though in a non-belligerent role so far, has put a solid glitter around the United Nations' hope for victory.

Pro-Allied though she has been since the start of the war, materialistic Turkey would never declare herself unreservedly on one side or the other before. That she has done so now indicates that she believes a German collapse is a matter of time only.

All that is cheering, but in one way the actions of President Inonu should act as a brake on public expectations of a quick victory. Turkey's legions evidently are not going to war immediately indicating that the fight yet to come will be quite lengthy and extremely costly.

Foreign observers have been guessing that the Turkish army will not jump into the fray until next spring at the earliest, unless provoked by some German act.

But the warmer relations between the Allies and Turkey should be a big help. Not so much perhaps because of the direct aid she can offer—although that will be valuable in clearing the Germans out of the Aegean and surrounding territory—but because of the jolt her action will hand Hitler's satellites.

Already representations from President Inonu's conference with Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt are being felt in the Balkan capitals. Bulgaria is wavering badly and is reported ripe to shy away from the Nazi influence. Hungary too is restless, sufficiently so to make the possibility of a complete occupation feasible from a Nazi point of view.

Rumors with Russian overtones have been heard, also, about a possible approach about her continuing embargo of Nazi arms and might at any moment decide that a leap in the direction of the Allied bandwagon would be wise. There is doubt, however, that such a German satellite would receive anything but an ice cold welcome from the Allies.

Yugoslavia, of course, has always been a headache to the Germans. And Turkey's undersighting of a German defeat is going to make the patriots there more daring and troublesome than ever before.

Walker Lodge Elects Officers for Year 1944

At the regular meeting of Walker Lodge, held in the Y. M. C. A. building on Monday evening, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

W. Master—Bro. W. M. Near
S. W.—Bro. J. M. Steele
J. W.—Bro. H. C. Helwig
Chaplain—Bro. Wor. Bro. W. M. Cooper
Treasurer—Bro. W. K. Graham
Secretary—Bro. F. J. Salt
S. D.—Bro. C. F. Leatherland
J. D.—Bro. T. M. McCutcheon
D. of C.—Bro. J. Bently
I. G.—Ver. Wor. Bro. F. McIntosh

S. S.—Bro. I. M. Harris
J. S.—Bro. J. B. Watkins
Organist—Bro. L. W. Lovell
Tyler—Wor. Bro. W. R. E. Blair

At the close of the meeting ten sandwiches were served and an enjoyable half hour spent in cards and pool.

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Overseas Mail Letters from the Local Boys Serving in the Cause of Freedom

Major T. V. Kenney, son of Mr. John Kenney, writes from England expressing appreciation of the parcels sent from Acton and Vicinity War Services League. He also enjoys the local paper when he receives his copies.

A card from Gordon Cook says: "Received two copies of The Free Press, also 300 cigarettes from War Services. I am very grateful to the folks." As ever the same Cooke.

Knox W. M. Society Elects Officers at December Meeting

The monthly meeting of Knox W. M. S. was held at the home of Mrs. E. Hassard on Thursday last, with Mrs. F. Blaw presiding.

The meeting opened with the devotional part in charge of Mrs. H. Allison and Mrs. (Rev.) F. Thomson. Mrs. E. Harr read an interesting item on Christmas and all it stands for.

The nominating committee gave the report of the committee with the election of officers for 1944 as follows:

President—Mrs. F. Blaw
1st Vice-President—Mrs. E. J. Hassard
2nd Vice-President—Mrs. E. Gamble
Secretary—Mrs. H. Malaprize
Treasurer—Mrs. H. M. McDonald
Home Helpers—Mrs. C. Hansen and Mrs. F. McCutcheon
Welfare and Welfare—Mrs. F. Anderson
Literature—Mrs. A. B. McLean
Supply Secretary—Mrs. Wes Macaulay
Mission Band—Mrs. (Rev.) F. Thomson
Pianist—Mrs. (Rev.) F. Thomson
Press Secretaries—Mrs. Allison and Mrs. Cordner
Correspondence Secretary—Mrs. Fred Wright
Library—Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Robertson
Life Membership Secretary—Mrs. W. Johnston

The selection of the officers was received with unanimous satisfaction by the members. The reports of the different committees showed a very gratifying and successful year both financially and also in attendance of the members. At the close of the usual business the hostess supplied a very dainty lunch and a pleasant social time was enjoyed.

NEWLY-WEIDS HONORED BY PRESENTATION AT DUBLIN LITERARY MEETING

The regular meeting of the Dublin Literary Society was held on Friday evening. After the business was dealt with, Mrs. Willard Britton presided for the following programme: piano solo by Mrs. Robertson; Songs by Mrs. Charles Cuts; piano solo by Mary Ritchie; community singing led by Mrs. Robertson and Mr. Charles Cuts.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Heveran (nee Ida Fryer) were called forward. Betty Burkhoffer addressed them and Veron Webster and Betty Britton presented the newly-wards with a large basket of miscellaneous gifts.

The bride and groom both made fitting speeches of thanks. Lunch was served and dancing enjoyed for the rest of the evening.

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VICTORY SALVO IN MOSCOW



Picture shows: The City battery of Moscow saluting the heroes of Orel and Belgorod. By the capture of these two key towns the Red Army turned Germany's offensive to a retreat.

Another Letter from Acton Soldier Tells of Italy

Italians are Friendly After Getting Acquainted—Quantum Customs and Warfare Hardships

The following is a letter from Sgt. Jim McGeachie, formerly of the Acton Free Press staff and now with the Canadian forces in the Italian campaign. He tells of the campaign and the people and country.

Italy

Dear Arlo:

Another few lines to let you know that all is going well over here. I hope you are all fine over there and enjoying good Canadian living. We are taking it easy again for a few days after a tough time of it. We had it pretty bad for about five days steady, getting very little sleep, little to eat, and doing lots of walking.

I didn't say marching because we had to move very cautiously behind hills, up river beds, etc. to keep under cover. "Jerry" had a lot of guns trained on our objective and the minute we were spotted he brought a rain of shells around us. Once under shell fire and you really take precautions, they can be very demoralizing and make an awful lot of noise. I sure wouldn't like to be under the barrage that our artillery lays down, it really is tremendous and has to be seen and heard to be really appreciated.

The Italian people are quite friendly towards us. That is, after a few days, when they have had a chance to figure us out, and when we prove ourselves friendly, they open their hearts and bring out the eggs and "Vino". The women also do our washing for us. It sure is funny, seeing the women carrying loads on their heads. Everything they carry goes onto their heads while the men ride behind them on mules.

The towns are very uninteresting and about all they contain is a horde of barber shops, they really are smart with a razor. The army takes over the old big town and opens up shops, cafeterias, etc. So far, I haven't seen a picture show since we left Sicily.

I am still receiving my regular cigs from Acton and also got a parcel last week. Please convey my thanks as they certainly are appreciated now. The Free Presses are also looked forward to with interest as news is very scarce. Must close now. Regards to my Acton friends.

Sincerely,
Jim McGeachie

IRISH WERE IN IT

DUBLIN (CP)—The term "The British Commonwealth of Nations" was first used in an unofficial document in the Anglo-Irish Treaty of December 6, 1921, and in the Irish Free State Constitution Act of the Imperial Parliament, 1922.

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At the close of the meeting ten sandwiches were served and an enjoyable half hour spent in cards and pool.

Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Concerts, or Other Events, under this heading, are charged. Five cents per line, with a minimum charge for any announcement of 25¢.

New Year's Eve Dance, in Acton Town Hall, December 31st. Merry-maker's Orchestra.

Don't forget the Dublin School Christmas concert, Tuesday, December 21, 8:30 p.m. Adults 25¢, Children 15¢.

Dance in Orton Community Hall on Friday evening, December 24. Harvey Fisher's Orchestra. Admission 50¢. Lunch served.