

The Acton Free Press.

Seventeenth Year—No. 4.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JULY 27th, 1944

Eight Home-print Pages—Five Cents

Employees Cancel Picnic to Send Parcels Overseas

125 Parcels to go from Wool Canoeing Corporation and Canadian Wool Co.

Last year the employees of the Wool Canoeing Corporation and the Canadian Wool Company here held a grand picnic when they and their families enjoyed a fine afternoon of sports and entertainment. This year instead of such an event, 125 parcels will go overseas to those serving in the armed forces. The parcels go this week.

The change came about at the suggestion of the employees of these firms. They talked with the management and felt it would not be right for them to have a good time at a picnic while Canadians were fighting for freedom in other parts of the world and suggested that this year the Companies allow them to use the picnic expense to send a picnic to overseas.

This week 125 boxes go to the troops overseas. Each box contains 2 lb. of dark fruit cake, 1 lb. shortbread, 5 pig, hot chocolate, 5 piggs, orange and lemon crystals, 1 lb. tin of corned beef, 2 pound bars, 2 chocolate bars and 1 jar beef concentrate. The packages weigh 9 lbs. each and cost over \$5 each.

Each employee of these two companies had the opportunity to designate the soldier, airman or sailor to which his or her parcel was to be sent. Next week the parcels are closed for the annual week's vacation and employees will enjoy it more knowing that their annual picnic this year is shared overseas.

HANDSMAN FOR FORTY-FOUR YEARS H. O'SHEA RETIRES

Harry O'Shea of Guelph, bandman for 44 years and well-known in Acton where he was a very active member of Acton Citizens Band prior to his removal to Guelph, was honored by his fellow members of the Guelph Musical Society Band upon his retirement with the presentation of a wallet and sum of money.

Bandmaster Norman Philip made the presentation, taking the opportunity to commend Mr. O'Shea's many years of faithful service to the organization, both as musician and as librarian and utility man.

Mr. O'Shea has been forced to discontinue all band work after playing for a period of 44 years, during which time he has missed only three months of playing, while travelling to this country from England in 1909.

A veteran musician, he had played with such famous bands as the Brighton Prize Band and the R. N. V. B. band in Brighton, England.

Coming to Acton first, he took a leading part in the Acton Citizens Band, and also played in the East Hamilton Band. Later moving to Guelph, Mr. O'Shea played in the Great War Veterans Band under Bandmaster Chadwick. This band later became the 30th Wellington Rifles Band.

Nursery stocks and greenhouse products are exempt from Price Board ceiling regulations. There is no ceiling price on box plants, flowers and vegetables for planting.

DATES OF FALL FAIRS ANNOUNCED FOR EVENTS OF DISTRICT

The Department of Agriculture has compiled a list of Ontario Fall Fairs for 1944 and the following are the dates of interest in this district:

- Brampton—Sept. 2 and 4.
- Elmira—Sept. 1, 2 and 4.
- Fergus—Sept. 8 and 9.
- Georgetown—Sept. 15 and 16.
- Orangeville—Sept. 12 and 13.
- Acton—Sept. 22 and 23.
- Ancaster—Sept. 26 and 27.
- Arthur—Sept. 26 and 27.
- Caledon—Sept. 29 and 30.
- Cooksville—Sept. 26 and 27.
- Milton—Sept. 29 and 30.
- Aberfoyle—Oct. 3 and 4.
- Bolton—Oct. 13 and 14.
- Erin—Oct. 7 and 8.
- Grand Valley—Oct. 3 and 4.
- Markham—Oct. 5 and 7.
- Rockton—Oct. 7 and 9.
- Streetsville—Oct. 7.
- Woodbridge—Oct. 7 and 9.

ACTON ENLISTMENTS This Week's Register

—Frances Dills has enlisted in the W. R. C. N. S. and leaves to commence her training on August 9th at H. M. C. S. "Comestoga" at Galt.

Rev. Fr. Birms Celebrates High Mass at St. Joseph's Church

On Sunday, July 24th, the parishioners of St. Joseph's Church were honored in having Rev. Francis Birms S. J. celebrate his second solemn high mass in Acton. Father Birms was one of the ten young men who were ordained priests of the Jesuit Order in Toronto on Sunday, July 2nd. He celebrated his first solemn high mass in his native parish, Arthur, Ont., on July 9th.

The altars of St. Joseph's Church were beautifully decorated with various cut flowers for the occasion and special music was provided by the choir under the direction of Miss Irene Mathelland. The following assisted Father Birms at the altar: Rev. D. Hamlin S. J. as deacon; Rev. W. Harris S. J. as sub-deacon; and Rev. Norman Hinton S. J. as Master of Ceremonies. The pastor, Rev. V. J. Morgan, preached on the Powers, the Honors and the Dignity of the Priesthood.

After the mass, Frances Chev, dressed in white, accompanied by two little girls, Jean McCrea and Carol Lantz dressed as angels, read an address to the newly ordained priest and presented him with an initialed club bag on behalf of the parishioners of the parish. Father Birms then thanked the parishioners in a few well chosen words, and gave his individual blessing to each present.

Father Morgan's sermon was based on the passage "Thou art a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek" epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews, Chapter V, Verse 6. In this sermon he traced through history the duties and glory of the priesthood. In concluding his address he said, "Today, my brethren, you and I and every parishioner of this and Georgetown parish have been honored for we have in our midst a newly ordained priest, Father Birms S. J. Invested with the powers, the honors and the dignity of the Holy Priesthood.

Two weeks ago to-day, Father Birms was ordained a priest of God. A week ago to-day, he offered his first solemn high mass in his native parish and to-day he offers his second solemn high mass here in this parish. It is appropriate that he say mass here, for at one time the Jesuit fathers cared for the spiritual needs of this parish. To him we extend our congratulations and best wishes for a long and holy life in the vicary of our Lord. And from him we ask his blessing.

"To his father, brother, sisters and relatives, I also extend my congratulations.

"In conclusion I wish to make just one final, loving and consoling remark to you, Father Birms, and that is that he has the consolation of knowing, his dear departed mother, sharing in heaven, his joys and honors of his Holy Priesthood, and in his second solemn high mass."

RATION LIFTED FOR CERTAIN COMBED HONEY

Comb honey in standard wooden sections four and a quarter by four and a quarter inches, or four inches by five inches, has been removed from the ration list by a recent order of the Price Board.

No change has been made in the regulations affecting cut comb honey and extracted honey, which remain on the ration list on the basis of 2 pounds per preserves coupon.

Comb honey in standard sections is produced in very small volume and can be kept in salable condition for only a short time.

BACK AFTER INVASION



Riflesman Sydney Fields, who was wounded in the Normandy invasion and this week returned to Canada. The fierce fighting cost him his right hand. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Fields and his father is a veteran of the last war. Family and friends are delighted to welcome him back to Canada.

PAID SUPREME SACRIFICE



Pte. Harold Simpson, son of Corp. and Mrs. Geo. Simpson, Church St., Acton who has been reported killed in action on the Normandy front. This is the first Acton soldier to give his life in the invasion of France.

Pte. Harold Simpson Died of Wounds in Normandy Battle

Another Bright Young Actonian Paid Supreme Sacrifice in World War

Another young Acton soldier has given his life in the cause of freedom and the home and family of Corp. and Mrs. Geo. Simpson, Church Street and many friends have been grieved by the news received during the week that Pte. Harold Simpson has fallen in action in Normandy.

First word came on Friday that Harold had been wounded on July 16th and amputation of his leg had been necessary. Another message received on Saturday told that Harold had died of the wounds sustained.

Pte. Harold Simpson was 21 years of age. He was born in Brampton but has spent most of his life in Acton, attending school here and after leaving school was an employee of Beardmore and Co. He was before enlistment with the Alliance Paper Mills at Georgetown.

Two years ago last April, he enlisted with the Lorne Scots and later transferred to the Royal Regiment of Canada and a year ago last month went overseas. He spent eight months on the west coast before going overseas.

Besides his parents, he leaves one sister, Helen and a brother, Lorne at home. His father is a veteran of the first World War and is now serving again in the army in this war. Many friends extend deepest sympathy to them in this bereavement.

Harold was a popular young man in the community. He attended the United Church, of which he was a member. The whole community regrets that he was not spared to return, but honor the sacrifice he made.

Gnr. W. H. Peal Reported Wounded in Normandy

Mrs. W. H. Peal, Main Street received a message on Sunday stating that her husband, Gunner William Hamilton Peal had been wounded in France on July 18th. No further details of his injury were received.

Gunner Peal joined the army two and a half years ago and went overseas a year and a half ago. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Peal, reside in Rockwood and he has one brother and twin sisters. Prior to enlisting, he was employed at Malton.

Friends here will await with Mr. Peal and the family more word and the hope that the wounds may not prove serious.

Paratrooper Blair Killed in Action in Normandy

Paratrooper Alfred Blair, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Blair, formerly of Acton and Georgetown district, but now resident of Calgary, Alta., was killed in action June 10th during the Normandy invasion. He is a nephew of Mr. William Blair, Acton and a cousin of Mr. Fred Kingmill.

Paratrooper Blair enlisted in the Highlanders in Calgary in July, 1941, later joining the artillery at Petawawa, Ont., and then he transferred to the airborne forces in June last year. He went overseas a year ago.

Besides his parents, he leaves a brother and sister in Calgary and another sister in Edmonton.

Knox Sunday School Picnic in Park Last Week

The Knox Sunday School held their annual picnic on Wednesday, July 15 in the Acton park. The weather being undecided, the crowd was slow in gathering. After a short game of ball, the races and contests took place with the following winners:

Boys and girls, 4 and under, Donnie Wilds, Eddy McDougall; boys and girls, 5 and 6 years, Donny McDougall, Ronnie Sinclair; boys, 7 and 8 years, Tommy Statham, Grant Withers; girls, 7 and 8 years, Betty Sinclair, Beverly Letich; boys, 9 and 10 years, Billy Arnold, Ronnie Mason; girls, 9 and 10 years, Betty Wilds, Pat Terry; boys, 11 and 12 years, Bobbie Ramsey, Donnie Davidson; girls, 11, 12 years, Lorraine Mallin, Adela Britton; boys, 13 and 14 years, Melbourne Blow, John Barr; girls, 13 and 14 years, Joan Somerville, Joan Matthews; boys, 15 and 16 years, Doug Davidson, Don Matthews; girls, 15 and 16 years, Eleanor Ross, Helen McEllan; boys, open, Doug Davidson, Melbourne Blow; girls, open, Joan Somerville, Isac McEllan; 3-legged race, Melbourne Blow and Helen Holmes; wheelbarrow race, Doug Davidson and Melbourne Blow; basket eating contest, Melbourne Blow, Jack Arrcott; cloths race, Betty Wilds, Pat Terry; beauty contest, Donnie Davidson, Beverly Smith, and driving contest, Mrs. S. Matthews; throwing the needle, Doug Davidson, Ruth Masters; kicking the shoe, Joan Somerville, Isac McEllan; consolation, Joan Ramsey; couple's race, Andy Nicol, Helen McEllan; eating watermelon, Mr. Ross; throwing the rolling pin, Joan Somerville, Mrs. Matthews; time race, Don Matthews.

A most satisfying picnic lunch was served in the grandstand following which the prizes were distributed. After lunch a game of ball was again being enjoyed when another of those summer storms caused all to scatter early but contented.

DEAN OF WEEKLY EDITORS DIES AT MOUNT FOREST

Arthur W. Wright, editor of the Mount Forest Confederate and the dean of Canadian weekly newspaper editors, died at his home in Mount Forest Tuesday after a two weeks' illness.

He observed his 89th birthday on Feb. 12 last, and until a few weeks ago took an active part in editing his paper. He was born near Fergus and was a graduate of the 1887 class of the University of Toronto. He was also the first teacher at Prince Arthur's Landing, now Port Arthur, and later taught in the high schools at Orillia and Walkerton and for 15 years in the Galt Collegiate Institute.

In 1902 Mr. Wright bought the Mount Forest Confederate and 16 years ago the Representative and since that time successfully carried on the amalgamated paper. He was a well known member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association, took a keen interest in compiling historical data and took an active part in various local organizations and in the work of the Presbyterian Church and latterly of the United Church.

He is survived by three daughters, Grace and Jean, Mrs. H. S. Winchester, associated with him in the newspaper and Anne, St. Catharines. His wife, Annie D. McConkey, died in 1926.

THE McNABB—GIBBINS WEDDING HERE IN ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH

A very quiet wedding was solemnized on Monday afternoon, July 17th, at two o'clock, in St. Alban's Anglican Church, when Alice, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Gibbins of Acton, became the bride of Gnr. Neil McNabb, Wainright, Alberta, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McNabb of Rockwood, Ontario. Rev. Mr. Pulker officiated.

Mrs. Hugh Graham was her sister's matron of honor and Mr. James McNabb attended his brother.

The bride was lovely in a street length frock of two-piece white silk jersey and white accessories and a corsage of red roses. She carried a white prayer book.

Mrs. Graham wore a mauve flowered two piece sheer dress with mauve accessories and corsage of pink roses.

A reception was held at the home of the bride's parents. The bride's mother received wearing a two piece crepe dress of turquoise green with white accessories and corsage of tall-tan roses. Assisting was the groom's mother dressed in a green flowered dress with matching accessories and corsage of tall-tan roses. Guests were present from Rockwood, Acton and Guelph.

For travelling, the bride donned a brown tailored suit with white accessories. The happy couple left later for Toronto, and plans east.

MODERATOR TO ATTEND RE-OPENING SERVICES KNOX CHURCH SUNDAY

During the past few months extensive improvements and renovation have been carried on at Knox Presbyterian Church. A new steam heating system with automatic stoker has been installed. Decorators have just finished the interior decoration of the Church. For the past few Sundays services have been held in the Town Hall.

Next Sunday will be the occasion of the re-opening of the Church and Rev. A. C. Stewart, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church and a former beloved pastor of the Acton Church for eight years is returning to Knox Church for this very special occasion. No doubt many friends and former members will join the congregation next Sunday at these re-opening services.

V. S. Milburn Speaker at the Federation Meeting

On the 16th of July the Nassagaweya Branch of the Federation of Agriculture held a picnic and rally at Brookville. There were sports and races and a goodly crowd gathered to enjoy them. Events were marred by an accident which took place soon after proceedings had started. Arthur McLeod, a little boy, ran in front of a car which was driven by W. Anderson, and was badly shaken up. After the doctor had ascertained that the boy was not seriously hurt, people returned to enjoy the evening.

Many people crowded the hall to hear V. S. Milburn, secretary of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Briefly reviewing the benefit the farmers had got out of the Federation's efforts, the speaker went on to urge greater effort by all. He made appeal to youth to "organize and study for the great tasks ahead of them." A special treat was the vocal trio of McPhails. Their two numbers, "Come to the fair" and "Evening" were very delightful. The guitar numbers by H. Smith and W. Dredge were also very much appreciated.

A booth with refreshments was attended to by the ladies and a good sum of money was gathered by collection. The proceeds from this and the dance will go towards defraying expenses for the winter activities of the Branch.

The dance at the end was crowded with old and young enjoying the music of the Bloomsbury Orchestra.

JULY MEETING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE AT BANNOCKBURN

The monthly meeting of Bannockburn's Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. S. Lindsay, with the president, Mrs. N. McEachern in the chair. A paper on "The Rehabilitation of our armed forces after the war," was read by Miss Edna Russell. Mrs. C. Coles entertained with a piano selection. A paper on "Holding Steady at Home," was read by Mrs. W. McDonald. A "name the flower" contest was played in which the winners were Mrs. C. Coles and Mrs. J. Verschoote. Community singing brought the meeting to a close after which a dainty lunch was served. Mrs. C. Coles moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. S. Lindsay for her generous hospitality.

RETURNED FROM ITALY



Suffering from wounds in the abdomen sustained while fighting with the Canadian Army in Italy, Private James O'Rourke, whose mother resides at Spyside was invalided home with other Canadians during the past week. The family and friends are indeed glad to see him return and hope his wounds may soon heal.

Four Injured by Lightning in Monday's Storm

Had Taken Shelter in Small Hut On Farm in Nassagaweya

Mrs. Alex. Near, Nassagaweya and her daughters, Margaret and Audrey had a narrow escape from a fatal injury during the severe storm on Monday afternoon. The small hut in which they had taken refuge from the storm was struck and all four of the group were stunned by the lightning. Mrs. Wm. Near and Audrey were the most seriously affected but friends will be glad to learn their progress is satisfactory.

The four in the group were picking berries on Monday afternoon on the McAlister farm in Nassagaweya when the storm came up. They took refuge in a small hut on the farm when the building was struck by a bolt of lightning. The roof and floor and frame of the building were shattered by the lightning and it was indeed fortunate that the occupants escaped.

Every one of the four suffered from burns and cuts. Mrs. Near had one of her shoes torn from her foot by the lightning. The bolt struck just a few minutes after they entered the building. A view of the damage done to the building makes it seem miraculous that any of the group escaped fatal injuries.

Diplomas Awarded Pupils of Acton Continuation School

The following sixteen intermediate certificates have been awarded to regular candidates and candidates whose enrollment for Farm Service has been certified. They are all pupils of Acton Continuation School.

John Agar, Georgina Anderson, Raymond Arbc, Aldo Braida, Ardy Braids, Wilfred Duval, May Dyriv, George Elliott, Donald Lamb, Joyce Lamb, Delores Lappin, Lavina Lawson, Elizabeth Masters, Andrew Nicol, Marjorie Norton, Eleanor Rom.

The following four secondary school graduation diplomas have been awarded to regular candidates and candidates whose enrollment for Farm Service has been certified: Margaret R. Blow, Douglas Davidson, John R. Mainprize, June Talbot.

1939-43 Star For Services in Various Forces

Recently it was announced that His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to recognize the service rendered by His Majesty's Forces in certain theatres of operations during the first four years of the War by the institution of a Star to be known as the 1939-43 Star.

The 1939-43 Star will rank after the Africa Star. The Ribbon is dark blue, red and light blue in three equal vertical stripes. The dark blue stripe is intended to mark the service of the naval service and the merchant navy, the red stripe that of the army and the light blue that of the air forces.

Personnel of the Canadian Army and those discharged therefrom will be entitled to the award of the 1939-43 Star upon satisfactory proof of service under the conditions specified.

The necessary information and forms required to claim this decoration by discharged personnel and particulars regarding eligibility for the award, may be procured from any Army Recruiting Station in Military District No. 2.

Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Concerts, or Other Events, under this heading, are charged, on credit per line, with a minimum charge for any announcement of 5c.

Acton Boys' Band Concert, Sunday evening at 8 o'clock, in the park.

The Re-opening Services of Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton, will be held on Sunday, July 24th at 11.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. The preacher on this occasion will be the Rev. A. C. Stewart, M. A. of Midland, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Guest preachers in the morning will be Miss Orphan of Woodbridge and Mr. Thomas of Wilmot and in the evening Mr. Neil McPhail of Canada.