

The Acton Free Press.

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ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, APRIL 21st, 1940

Eight Home Print Pages—Six Cents

682 Cranks Went Dead As Bell System Changed

Town and Telephone Officials Witnessed Changeover to the Common Battery System at Local Telephone Office on Wednesday Afternoon — Further Steps in Improvement of System and Appreciated by All

When in a new telephone era in Acton, a new telephone system came into operation yesterday afternoon, when the magneto exchange that had served this community for many years was cut off, and a common battery exchange took over.

The old switchboard went dead at about two o'clock, and within two minutes working lights on the new switchboard showed that Acton subscribers were already using the new system.

The first outgoing long distance call to be connected through the new board was placed by Reeve T. Jones who officially opened the new service by talking to Mrs. Fletcher Lobb of Vancouver, a lifelong friend of the family. To inaugurate local service through the new exchange, Mr. A. T. Brown made the first local call to his wife.

Almost at once the lights on the new board began to wink, as the first calls were placed.

The first connections were made by Miss Mary Redman, chief operator. All operators had previously received special training in the handling of the new equipment.

The final phase of the conversion program has now commenced, as installers have begun the work of replacing the present Acton telephones with more modern, compact sets, with no hand crank.

The Bell manager has issued a warning to telephone users not to move the crank on the older type during a call, conversation, as this might result in the call being disconnected.

Among Acton visitors at the exchange who witnessed the cutover of the system were Reeve and Mrs. Theron Jones, Deputy Reeve and Mrs. T. Tyler, Clerk J. McGeachie, Mr. A. T. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hanson and Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Mills.

Bell officials from the district included Mr. J. I. Sanderson, district manager; Mr. W. Rankin of London; Mr. Hare, Mr. Winchester and Mr. Frank Harber of Kitchener.

Speaking informally after the change, Mr. Sanderson recalled of the friendliness of Acton—in his twenty years as district manager and the present improvement was but in keeping with the general growth of the Bell policy. Acton had diversified service in that dial and telephones were included in some Acton plants. The system had grown from about 200 to 682 today.

Reeve Jones complimented the Bell Co. on the splendid service they had given and the efficiency sustained when the war had broken down the standards of most every other service.

Mr. A. T. Brown, recalled the little 18 inch switchboard that was installed when he became local manager for the company in 1936.

The present board has accommodations for 400 numbers and additional units will be added as the service expands.

On Tuesday afternoon 682 cranks went dead in Acton and it was just as pleasant a feeling of relief as when Henry Ford eliminated the frog and necessity and put a self starter on his fiver. We know how to crank but we never enjoyed it whether it was telephone or automobile.

Pictures of the telephone change will be published next week.

—Andy Nicol was one of the contestants in the Boston Marathon Race on Tuesday. Andy is now with the Canadian Navy stationed at Halifax and has completed in school and other events here and in Guelph.

—Several Acton motorists report being assessed varying contributions for alleged speeding on the last Friday of Georgetown. Might be well to remember that the boundaries of the neighboring town ambitiously extend well beyond the built-up section.

—Information supplied the Free Press regarding the Textile Dinner at Hamilton was incorrect, we are informed Mr. and Mrs. Jack Boyce were unable to be present owing to the illness of his father, Mr. H. C. Boyce, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Graham were among the guests and also Monty Ranney.

Edna Jacques Delights Acton Audience

On Wednesday evening last the Friendly Circle of the Acton United Church presented a program featuring the famous poetess, Edna Jacques, in a delightful recital of some of her works.

Charitably for the evening was Mrs. Baird, Mrs. McLean and Mr. Baxter each rendered fine solos and a quintette composed of Misses J. Fetterley, M. Rollan, S. Rollan, A. Evans and S. Elliott sang "In a Little Spanish Town."

Miss Bennett introduced Mrs. Edna Jacques, making particular mention of the poetess' book, "Hues in December." Mrs. Jacques, born near Collingwood, offered her first poem for sale to the Moose Jaw Times. Her early life on a homestead in Saskatchewan provided her with many homesy subjects. For her program the poetess created her own informal atmosphere and continued a recital of some of the most delightful poetry by any of our Canadian poetesses. Some of her selections "My Neighbours Clothesline," "To a Seed Merchant," "My Daughter" were among the simple subjects which she gave so interestingly and provided the audience with the informal background for their inspiration.

Mrs. Jacques interspersed her poems with witty and amusing comments from her personal experience which she has gained in extensive travels in United States, Canada, on the Alaskan Highway and in small frontier settlements among the various types of peoples.

The enthusiastic audience accorded Mrs. Edna Jacques a warm Actonian welcome and she expressed her happiness that she could, for one night be a part of our village.

Appeals Heard at Assessment Revision Tuesday

Unstable Cecil Gibbons Resigns to Join the Provincial Police

Acton Council met on Tuesday night as a Court of Revision on the second supplemental assessment roll for 1940 with Deputy Reeve T. Jones and Councillors W. McLeod and T. Nicol present and Reeve T. Jones presiding.

Harold Gordon appealed his assessment on the ground that his house was not completed inside and water and light connections had not been made. Chief Harrop said this was a mistake and he felt the assessment should be withdrawn. Mr. Gordon said it would not be completed for three months.

Thos. Ware felt his assessment was too high. Assessment on house and garage was \$1450. The figures on similar houses in town were taken for comparison.

Albert Ware felt his assessment of \$1100 on house and garage was too high. This was only a partial assessment as the house was not complete.

Mr. Ware asked that the name be changed from Herbert to Albert.

Alex. McEachern asked that the business tax be cancelled as he was not conducting the laundry business.

The appeal of Harold Gordon was allowed. The appeal of Thos. Ware was replaced by \$87.50 as the garage was not all on his property. The business assessment of Alex. McEachern was written off.

A letter from Constable Cecil Gibbons tendered his resignation effective April 19th. He thanked Council and Chief Harrop for the kindness shown him during his term of office. Council accepted the resignation with regret. Constable Gibbons is leaving Acton to join the Provincial Police force after three and a half years of service here.

Mr. Allan Leishman desired to build two new houses on a lot with 77 foot frontage on Arthur Street and asked for a permit for such buildings. The matter was left to the judgment of the building inspector to meet the building requirements.

The Treasurer was instructed to adjust payment dates on the second supplemental assessment with first installment due on May 15 and subsequent payments due on the regular dates.

Married in Acton Fifty Years Ago



Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Mason, who on Sunday marked their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They have lived most of their lives in the home community. Photos by Vic Hristow

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTED BY KNOX W.M.S. LAST THURSDAY

The Knox Presbyterian Church W.M.S. held their monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Ida Ritchie on Thursday last. The meeting was opened by the President, Mrs. H. Mainprize, with a brief address and prayer.

A cordial invitation was extended by Mrs. F. Anderson to all present to attend the May meeting of the Junior Auxiliary of the W.M.S. when Mrs. A. C. Stewart of Midland will be guest speaker.

Mrs. C. Hansen and Mrs. F. Blow were appointed a committee to secure funds to send a box of food to an East Indian Student from British Guiana who is studying for the ministry in England.

A pleasing feature of the meeting was the presentation of a Life Membership Certificate to Miss Robena Clark, by the Life Members of the Knox Presbyterian W.M.S. The presentation was made by Miss Annie Stalker.

Mrs. Robt. Armstrong gave a very interesting reading concerning Formosa. The Worship Service was taken by Mrs. A. J. Buchanan who read the Easter Scripture lesson and the Prayer was offered by Mrs. E. J. Hassard. The meeting was brought to a close by the singing of a hymn and prayer by Mrs. Bonnie. A dainty lunch was served by the committee in charge and a social half hour was spent.

Trim and Siding Applied to Local Boy Scout House

The local community project known as the Scout Hall is progressing rapidly. The log siding has been applied to the outside giving the building a very Scouty appearance.

On the inside the trim has all been put on and the building is nearing completion. There are still numerous odd jobs to be done but the local Scout troop is having its meetings there now and the Cub Pack, it is expected, will make their headquarters there shortly.

Donations have been received as follows: Joe Whitham \$10 and the Acton Rotary Club \$125.

Under the B.N.A. Act the provinces have the right to legislate in sixteen separate fields.

NINETY YEARS OLD



On Tuesday another Actonian joined that exclusive "Over Ninety" group when Mrs. Wm. Mainprize quietly observed her ninetieth birthday at her home on Main St.

Mrs. Mainprize is enjoying good health and friends join us in extending congratulations on this occasion and wishing for her many happy and healthy such events.

Married in Acton Fifty Years Ago Mark Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mason Receive Congratulations of Many Friends at Home Here

Married in Acton fifty years ago by Rev. J. A. McLachlan at the Methodist Parsonage on Howe Avenue, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Mason, marked their fiftieth wedding anniversary on Sunday at their home on Willow Street which was for many years also a Methodist Parsonage.

Sunday afternoon and evening many friends of this fine couple called to offer congratulations and the Acton friends were augmented by those from Toronto, Kitchener, Leppa, Buffalo and Guelph. Flowers from local town and church organizations and cards from friends who were unable to attend brought sincere congratulations on this golden anniversary and best wishes for many happy years to come. Among the callers were Mr. and Mrs. Stan Hall, members for Halton; Miss I. Anderson and Miss H. Wallace poured tea and Mrs. Wm. Hamsden, of Buffalo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mason arranged for serving the visitors. It was a very happy time when so many friends called at this always hospitable home.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason have spent most of their lives in Acton. Mr. Mason is a plasterer by trade and of course lived in such well known glove centres as Johnston, N.Y. and in Kitchener, but Acton has always been home and here they have spent over half of their years of married life.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Mason are enjoying good health and keep young by their interest in the young people and the progress of the community. Looking back over the Free Press files we read of the marriage of this couple and find "Mrs. Mason was an active worker in the Epworth League and Mr. Mason a valued member of the Sunday School orchestra."

Fifty years later we find their interest and helpfulness is undiminished in music. Mr. Charlie Mason, conducted the boys and girls of Acton in the band he founded and led to top honours in Waterloo and at the C.N.E. with the same alertness and precision that some of us who were beginners recall forty years ago.

We join with a host of other Acton friends here and abroad in the heartiest of congratulations on this 50th anniversary and the wish that Mr. and Mrs. Mason may have many more years of happiness together in their home community.

WEATHER VARIATIONS IN JUST FEW MILES ARE GREAT

Sometimes we are prone to blame those who predict the weather for inaccuracies but when one stops to consider the variations in weather in short distances it is understandable that predictions may easily be at variance.

This was very noticeable on Monday afternoon from Acton to Speyside. The fields and ground were white with snow while below there to Milton the fields were bare and the precipitation which fell was in the form of rain. That same afternoon a heavy fog blanketed the northern section while Milton to Speyside was clear and free of fog—just eleven miles but quite a variation in weather.

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED BY NASSAGAWEYA BUSY BEES INSTITUTE

The Busy Bees held their annual meeting at the home of Mrs. Elmer Cox last Wednesday afternoon with a splendid attendance.

Mrs. McLean was in the chair and acted as pianist. Roll call was answered by paying of Fees. Minutes of last meeting were read and the financial report given by Mrs. Stan Robinson. Auditors report showed books in good order and \$261.53 receipts for the year. Correspondence told of raising of membership fees to 50c which were no more favoured than last year. Some "Thank You notes were read and new hand book reported."

Mrs. McLean and Mrs. Stan Robinson were elected to attend the officers conference at Guelph. Plans were made to use our blotters to publicize our branch of the W.I. A questionnaire that was enlightening as to the nature of W.I. work expected by the Department was discussed and filled out.

The business part of the meeting was opened and it was decided to buy 100 cups and that a special meeting be held to make out the year's programme. A quilting is to be held within the week and the May meeting will be devoted to arrangements of the booth for Nassagaweya centennial. Mrs. D. Henderson was nominated to see about snap-shots for this booth. The annual Good Cheer report showed \$5 on hand.

Mrs. McLean offered her home for the May meeting and Mrs. Stan Robinson hers for the Special and Mrs. Oscar Locker hers for the quilting. The officers and convenors were re-elected by one motion for another year. The ladies were pleased to greet a former member Mrs. Wm. Allison, Kiltbride, a guest of our hostess.

Mrs. McLean read a humorous poem, "A Chinese From" Mrs. Cox served a delicious lunch and Mrs. McLean moved a vote of thanks to her for her hospitality and use of her home. Meeting was closed with Miraph Benediction. Little Jimmie Davenport grandson of Mrs. C. E. Davenport won the lucky draw.

CHURCH CHOIR'S FINE PROGRAM OF EASTER MUSIC

On Good Friday April eighteenth the twenty eight voice choir of Acton United Church presented a Pastoral and Easter program of sacred music.

The musical service was made up of solos, part songs and anthems. Solos included "The Magdalen" by Mrs. B. Veldhuis, "He Shall Feed His Flock" by Mrs. D. McLean, "The Holy City" by Mrs. H. Baxter, and "Shall Abide" by Mr. L. Pickering. Presented as part songs were "In Joseph's Lovely Garden" with the soprano solo taken by Mrs. W. Beatty, "Glory in the Garden" with Misses B. Gibson and S. Halston singing the duet and Misses J. Fetterley, A. Evans, Meares, K. Allan and L. Pickering singing the quartette. The choir as a whole presented several anthems "Open the Gates of the Temple," "And the Glory of the Lord," "God So Loved the World," "Easter Joy," "This is the Lord's Doing," and "We Declare Unto You Glad Tidings." Also on request the choir sang "The Palm." Miss E. Franklin contributed a very fine organ selection to the service and also the accompaniments.

Rev. L. Pickering conducted this Pastoral and Easter Program of Sacred Music.

MRS. GORDON AGNEW ADDRESSED MEETING UNITED CHURCH W.M.S.

The Easter Thankoffering meeting of the Women's Missionary Society of the United Church was held in the Sunday School room on Tuesday with a good attendance. The president, Mrs. E. J. Caldwell, presided.

Mrs. C. L. Poole, Mrs. A. T. Brown and Miss M. Mainprize had charge of the devotional. A duet was sung by Miss D. Simmons and Mrs. B. Veldhuis. Mrs. Caldwell introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Gordon Agnew who gave a very vivid description of her trip to the World's Peace Conference, in Budapest, Hungary. The offering was taken by Mrs. B. Mowat and Mrs. J. Lambert and dedicated by Mrs. L. Pickering. Guests from Knox, Anglican and Churchill Societies were also present at the meeting.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mrs. Agnew, always a welcome visitor to the W.M.S., for her fine talk. Lunch was served and a social time spent together at the close of the meeting.

The number of commercial failures in Canada in 1940, reached the highest level since 1941.

Duplicate Records for New Assessment Here

Alf Long is President Acton Rotary for Year

President of Acton Rotary Club for next year will be Alf Long who succeeds Amos Mason to this post. Other officers elected at the Tuesday meeting of the Club were Amos Mason, Vice President, Jack Haydon, Secretary, Art Haydon, Treasurer, Harold Baxter, Vic Rumley and Len Lovell, directors.

Featured on the luncheon program was a film "Motoring in the Maritime." President Amos Mason was welcomed back from his holiday in Florida and had kept up his hundred per cent attendance while away from home.

Finishing of the chair project is just about completed with the chairs being delivered as finished. Only fifteen remain yet to be sold and Acton orders it was revealed were to be filled first before out-of-town orders are accepted.

Addition to Another Industry Now Started

Wool Combing Plant Will Be Enlarged in Acton

Work has started on a new addition to the plant of the Wool Combing Corporation in Acton. The new section will be 18 feet wide and 36 feet long and will be built on the front of the present plant. The construction will be of rock-faced concrete block to match the present building. It will be two storeys high. The first floor will give more production space for the plant and the second floor will provide a closed loading platform and additional storage space for the plant.

J. B. Mackenzie & Sons are the contractors in charge of this work and construction started this week. Wool Combing Corporation has had a continued expansion ever since their establishment in Acton eight years ago, and large additions have been built on the rear of the building to meet production needs of this expanding business.

Over \$1000 Given To Victims of Fire At Limehouse

Contributions amounting to \$1,044.50 from friends in Equestrian Township were presented to Mr. and Mrs. F. T. C. Brown and their three children who lost their large farm home at Limehouse by fire a week ago. Mr. Walter Linham was chairman and Mr. Frank Barnes made the presentation in Equestrian Township Hall on Tuesday evening. Quite a large crowd attended the event for which Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hill, Mr. R. Speilvogel, Mr. Stuart Elliott and Mr. Jim Speilvogel gave of their musical talent free.

The fire which originated in the garage and implemented shed quite near the house had made such progress when discovered at 2:00 a.m. that even the house could not be saved, partly due to a westerly wind. Most of the first floor furniture was saved by volunteer neighbours who were called by telephone. The bulk of the upstairs possessions and all the contents of the sheds including a Minneapolis Moline tractor and a valuable set of carpenter's tools were a complete loss.

The Browns purchased the farm from Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Newton some five years ago. They are now in a house nearby which is owned by Mr. Rae Scott.

On Thursday last Messrs. E. Miller, Russell Thompson, Fred Brown, Harold Brown and Harold Barber, each with his tractor and Messrs. Walter Linham and Robert McVey with teams twice cultivated fifty-three acres and sowed twenty-nine of it with spring grain on Mr. Brown's farm. Only inclement weather prevented them finishing his spring seeding for him last week. A number of neighbours had previously helped to clear up considerably following the fire.

About 70 per cent of the world's supply of asbestos comes from southern Quebec.

Council Discusses Assessments Under New System — Recognition Made of Junior Hockey Club — Additions to Hall's Monument Held for Lack of Funds — Annexation Details Morning Council Session

Acton Council met in regular session on Monday evening when Councillor L. Hadden, T. Nicol, W. McLeod and Deputy Reeve T. Tyler were present and Reeve T. Jones presided.

Dr. G. A. Sims, on behalf of the Junior Hockey Club, requested Council's consideration of recognition of the team of this year financially in whatever way possible. He told of the organization and the success of the team and the fine work of coach Ito Marzo. It was planned to tender a supper to the team on Saturday night and present windbreakers. A dance was also being held. Council made a contribution of \$50 to be applied on the coat of windbreakers.

A resolution was passed by Council changing the name of Acton Boulevard to Leishman Boulevard, subject to legal requirements. This change was agreed upon in view of the fact that Mr. John H. Leishman had opened this new subdivision.

A letter regarding the dividing of insurance commissions between the agents who were paying business tax, Mr. Wright objected to Council's ruling as at present and which was very ambiguous. He had divided the commissions between Mrs. H. L. McDonald and W. R. Bracken and Mr. Wright had accepted no commission. Mr. Bracken was returning his cheque as he would not accept anything but according to Council's ruling. The Clerk was instructed to write the Imperial Insurance office to adjust the matter.

The Clerk presented a report on individual assessments under the present plan and also other assessment information. Council discussed the County assessment with Assessor Harrop and he reported that the cards forwarded to the County Assessor had not been returned. There were no duplicate records and it was felt there should be a record in Acton. It was decided to have copies of a hundred duplicates made and devise a means of keeping the records safe.

Accounts were passed for payment as follows:

Acton Free Press advertising	\$7.80
APUC various services	251.14
J. D. Lucas, KC services re annexation	150.00
Acton Cemetery Board re W. Churchill	245.00
Bell Telephone Co services	17.87
Thompson Motors labor re snow plow	51.25
Beardmore & Co. installation of watermain, hydrants, etc. new Crescent sub	2972.01
J. J. Taylor Ltd Vault door	255.00
C. F. Leatherland	102.65
L. W. Agar	21.30
	\$4054.00

Council discussed with Chief Harrop the conduct of taxis in Acton. The operation and checking of taxis is under the supervision of the Chief.

Council discussed at some length (Continued on Page Five)

Coming Events

Announcements of Meetings, Concerts, or Other Events, under this heading, are charged, 10 cents per line, with a minimum charge for any announcements of 30c.

The Minister's Aunt will be presented again April 30th in the Town Hall, Acton.

St. Alban's W.A. will hold a Baking Sale and Tea in the Parish Hall on Saturday, May 21st.

"The Minister's Aunt" will be presented in the Ballroom Hall on April 27 under the auspices of the Churchill Women's Association.

The annual meeting of the Acton Lawn Bowling and Tennis Club will be held at the Y.M.C.A. Monday April 23th at 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Euchre, Y.M.C.A. Acton, Thursday, April 21. Proceeds to the Ingie family who recently lost home by fire. (Advertisement: 50c. Ladies provide. Come one, come all. Under auspices of Acton L.O. B.A., No. 1101.)