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**Recollections of Acton**

**BACK IN 1899**

From the Lines of The Free Press of Thursday, May 11th, 1899

It is the intention of Council to lay another piece of cement walk on Mill Street this summer.

A schema is on foot for the erection of a combined new ticket office and set of dressing rooms at the park entrance. The Park Committee and Lacrosse Club will go into the matter jointly.

The Building Committee of the Baptist Church have decided to employ the services of Mr. J. Francis Brown, Architect, Toronto Plans for the new edifice will shortly be submitted and it is expected the work of excavation at the corner of Mill and Main Streets will commence within a few weeks.

The seventh annual Dublin picnic will be held in Duncan McDougall's grove on Queen's birthday. The program will include tripping the light fantastic, games and sports and a picnic tea. Acton Jubilee Orchestra will discourse music.

Very general regret is felt that owing to ill health, Rev. J. K. Godden, M.A., the popular pastor of St. Alban's Church, is obliged to give up his work entirely for a period of rest and special treatment. During his absence, services will be conducted by Mr. Gordon of Trinity College.

A Lawn Tennis Club is the latest organization to secure quarters in the Public Park. The new Court is likely to attract numerous lovers of this gentlemanly sport in fine weather.

**BACK IN 1929**

From the Lines of The Free Press of Thursday, May 9th, 1929

Mr. James Stevenson, Toronto, sang a solo at Knox Church on Sunday morning. He is a soloist in St. Paul's Church, Toronto.

Motorists from Acton to Mount Forest experienced quite a lot of

snow enroute on Saturday morning. Mr. Jack Cowie, principal of a boys' school at Plumtree, Rhodasia, accompanied by his wife and daughter visited with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. George Cowie, Park Ave., last week.

Norman Gibson, of Acton, won first place in the Halton County Contest for Senior boys in the W.C.T.U. Scientific Temperance Contest conducted through the Northern Messenger in the Sunday Schools.

**DIED**  
SHEPHERD—In Nelson Township, on Monday, May 6th, 1929, George Shepherd, aged 90 years.

**SIXTEEN NATIONS MEET TO STUDY CHILD WELFARE**

Doctors, nurses and social workers from sixteen nations are studying Britain's methods of child care. A course of 15 weeks of study has been organized by the Ministry of Health in co-operation with the British Council. The scheme was initiated by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund who are meeting the costs from their sterling account in Britain. Those taking part in the course come from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Holland, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Poland, Syria, Transjordan and Yugoslavia.

Nearly a third of the seats in the Italian senate are for opponents of Fascism.

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**Chronicles of .. Ginger Farm**

Written Specially for The Acton Free Press  
**GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE**

There was something different about that heat wave we endured last week from any we had had before. Did you notice it? Unless you were outside quite a bit you probably wouldn't. I mean there was no shade. No possibility of standing under a tree for a minute to get away from the scorching sun because on the trees there were no leaves, and so no shade. Of course, as I write, things have changed—a few days can make a lot of difference. Now, the trees and shrubs are once again spreading their welcome, protective foliage. How wonderful it is to have trees! You know, an Ontario heat wave without shade makes me think of the Western prairie. Hot, blistering sun and for miles and miles, not a tree in sight. So often out West I used to long for a tree. Just one tree, where one could sit for a few minutes enjoying the shade and the cooling sound of wind rustling the leaves.

Well, we may not have appreciated that spell of unseasonable heat but Mother Nature seemed to like it. The newly sown spring grain came up before it was hardly in ground, bare cherry trees almost blossomed overnight, welcome thistle made its appearance and was ready just as we had finished the last of our winter fruit supply. We also managed to get our garden in and I am hoping it, too, will share in the quick growing season.

Our garden could have gone in sooner but I had to wait until our men were through with the job. Yes, I could have done it myself, except that any time I tackle the job alone I never get the rows straight—even though I measure distances between rows very carefully and have a string line to guide me—maybe it is because the rows are so long. Anyway to avoid justified criticism afterwards, I wait for Partner to help me with the job. Now when the garden comes up I won't hear scathing comments such as "Crooked as a snake-rail fence" or "how can you hope to scuffle rows like that if I couldn't put in garden straighter than that I'd eat my shirt!"

So you see what I mean. Of course I also prefer straight rows in a garden but when I get hold of a hoe to scoop out the seed rows it seems to go every which-way. I wonder what would happen if I had to plough a straight furrow!

Incidentally, our Honey was a great help in putting in garden. As soon as a nice, cool, moist furrow was scooped out Honey would flatten herself out in the middle of it. And then, no sooner was she chased out of it than I would turn round and find her running off with a packet of seeds. Reproved again she would look at us sideways as much as to say "Well, what can a fellow do?" Probably, at that moment Black Joe would appear and then chasing the cat would solve Honey's problems for the time being.

On the whole putting in garden is a nice job. . . one has only to look up to see a clear-cut view of "the mountain"—the sandpits at the backyards, breaking and intensifying the dense green of the hill and fields. How we should miss it if the earth should suddenly open and swallow our "mountain"—or, to give it what I believe is its true geographical description—the Niagara Escarpment.

And then in the garden, we have the song of the birds. We have so many birds around here, nothing very rare perhaps, but because many of our birds belong to a common species does not make their song any less pleasant to listen to. Blackbirds and Orioles, with each other in song, with the cheery bob-link and song sparrow joining in. Yes, our birds provide us with a music festival of the air.

One day as I listened to a bird singing I recalled a poem of Wordsworths that I loved as a child. Although it used to make me feel I wanted to hide some place and cry, it has such a lifting sadness. If any farm readers get a little fed up with farm life at times, look through any collection of poems and you will probably find the one I have reference to—"The Reverie of Poor Susan". Read it and imagine yourself as Susan, walking through Wood Street, on your way to work, as she probably was—and think what it would mean to hear "in the silence of the morning the song of the bird."

Well, I seem to have run out of space—and I had quite a lot to say about birds, and cats, but maybe I'll get around to it next week. For the present I'll leave this question with you—can we keep both cats and birds? I say yes—but only if you love them both. "Bye for now, more next week."

**BURLINGTON**

The campaign to raise \$180,000 to build for this district a Recreational Centre got under way on Tuesday, and from the early reports received at headquarters the people of the town and district, are arena-conscious and will give generously to the project.

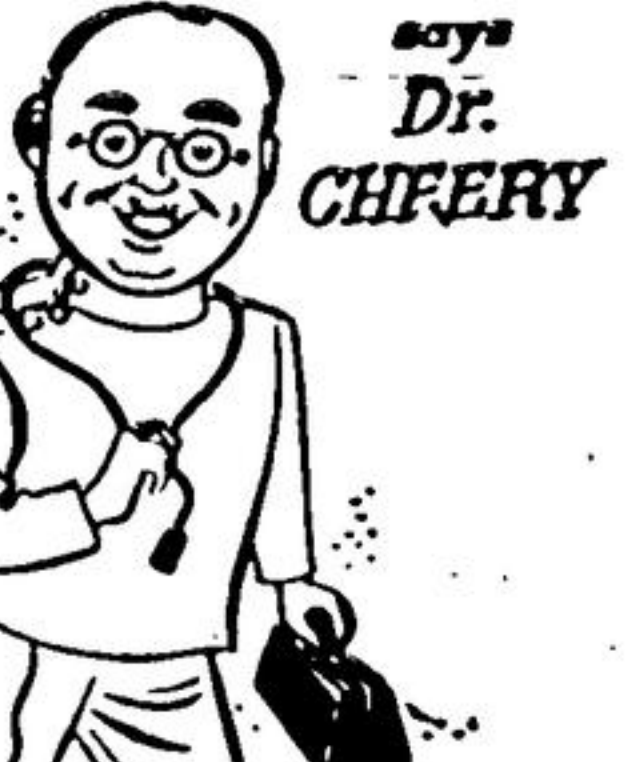
At the regular meeting of the Nelson township council, held in the township hall on Monday, the request of Nelson School Area Board No. 1 for the sum of \$174,000 to build the new school at Lowville, was approved and the Board will now be able to proceed with the erection of the school.

At the annual meeting of the Ontario Mayors and Reeves Association, held at Hamilton last week, Mrs. Mary S. Pettit, warden of Halton and Reeve of Nelson township, was elected a member of the executive. Gazette.

Chinese Nationalist troops use the old German goose step in review.

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