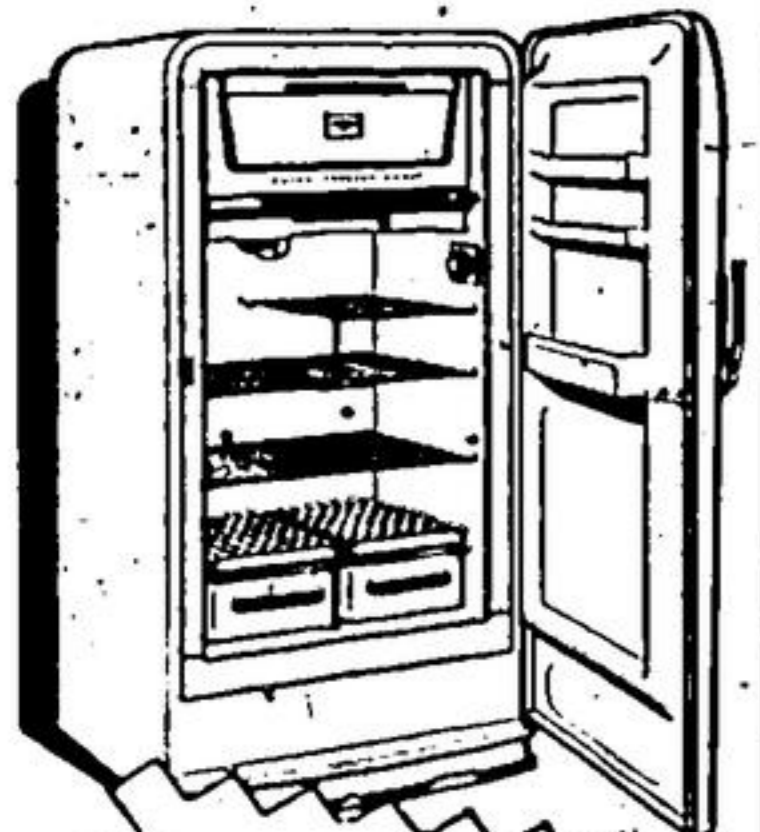


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WHISTLES, BELLS, CELEBRATION PROCLAIM END OF FIRST WORLD WAR

"The war at last is over. Praise God from whom all blessings flow," was the headline in the Free Press on November 17, 1918, when the first world war came to an end.

The paper of that day reported that "The war has ended! Thank God, the cruel fighting and bloodshed are over. Germany is on her knees! The Kaiser, the brutal originator of the war, is a fugitive and a vagabond."

There was a general outburst of jubilation in the early morning when the official news was received. All the factory whistles, the churches, school, town hall and town clock bells were set going and they continued making their joyous uproar all morning. The Grand Trunk Railway trains and the Toronto Suburban motors whistled continuously as they passed through town during the morning hours.

That day saw the biggest parade in the history of Acton according to the reports of the Free Press. An effigy of the Kaiser was hung on one of the floats and the town of Acton, veterans and bands were among the participants, followed by a lengthy line of citizens. The parade followed a service of thanksgiving at the corner of Mill and Willow St. on the steps of the new Government building just completed in 1914.

In the evening the bands paraded the townpeople to the shore of Fairy Lake where a big bonfire concluded the celebration of "the greatest day Acton ever saw."

This was the conclusion of an event that played a major part in the history of Acton as well as the entire world. Right from the first when the Free Press headline read, "Great Britain at War with Germany," the accompanying article predicted that "it will inevitably be the greatest war the world has ever known."

Acton was as quick to meet the necessities of the war as other centres throughout the county and country. On August 13, 1914, 18 men had already enlisted. The military force was set out as Imperial and would have the status of British Regular troops. Enrolment

was for all ranks and voluntary with the term of service for the duration of the war.

First volunteers from Acton were: Col.-Sgt. Harwood, Sgt. F. Coles, Cpl. Large, Sgt. Lee, Victor Lande, Fred Wills, James Gibb, David Douglas, A. Alego, A. Winterburn, J. Robertson, G. Green, F. Wright, John Reilly, F. Roubil, J. Labli, R. Singleton, W. H. Ward.

The importance of the event was well understood. According to a news report of that day Acton's foreign population numbered among it about 45 Austrians. Upon the outbreak of the war between Austria and Serbia, some left Acton to go home to fight for their country. They purchased tickets to Austria but were detained at Montreal and most returned to Acton.

Precautions were taken without delay. In August 13, 1914, the Free Press reported that "Col. Noble visited Acton last Friday and put a military police guard on the Drill Shed and armories that evening. Privates Lee, Large and Lane of No. 6 Company have since been on guard night and day, two of the three being constantly on duty."

But progress was not completely halted for in that same issue the steel had been laid through town and two miles beyond for the new electric railroad known as the Toronto Suburban and more commonly known as the Old Ingersoll.

A group from Acton had walked to the end of the line as it was laid and on the invitation of the conductor hemlock crossing planks were improvised on the work train for seats as the following were the first passengers from Con. 1 Esqueping, through the Huron at the Campbell Store, over the Fairy Lake bridge, past the Acton Aquatic Club House and through town to Frederick St. in the yards of the Acton Tanning Co.; Mrs. C. C. Spaight and Miss Bertie Speight, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hynward, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Avery, Misses Leticia Scott and Meta Wills, Mrs. S. Taylor, Mrs. R. L. Gregory and Messrs. W. Sayers, C. Woodhall, Wm. Mason, Albert Gibbons, Percy Howarth, Ethelred White, John Clarke, W. Loggie, V. Langstaff and Messrs. George Taylor and Leslie Gregory.

Things moved more quickly than we sometimes imagine in those days. By the time another week had rolled around the Free Press was reporting that "the most attractively decorated store in honor of the soldiers' departure on Monday was that of Brown's Drug Store. The colors of Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Russia were gracefully intertwined surrounding the portraits of the brave boys who were leaving for the war."

Evidently there was a flurry of excitement at the station on that Monday as the train arrived and the boys began to board. One of the local tradesmen came dashing up with the balliff and seized one soldier's belongings. The soldier and his wife were leaving and it seems that in the excitement a bill of \$2.51 had been overlooked. A hat was passed, however, and the bill was over-subscribed as the happy couple proceeded on their way.

The soldiers didn't get away without a fond farewell as probably many will remember. Free Press reported that "As the soldiers marched from the armories to the G.T.R. station on Monday afternoon the realities of the situation began to be realized by citizens generally. The streets were lined with people and good wishes for success and safety were expressed on all sides."

The line of march was profusely decorated with flags at various points. Hundreds of citizens assembled to bid good-byes to the soldier boys and as good-byes were being said the band played such martial and patriotic airs as "Rule Britannia" and "The Maple Leaf". Before embarking Sgt. Coles made a feeling speech and thanked the people of Acton for their great interest in the men and their cordial good wishes.

The Acton group assembled with the other county groups at Valcartier, Quebec, where they spent some time training and then to Salisbury Plains, England.

In the meantime, the ever ready Red Cross was organized locally and plans were laid for the knitting of socks, helmets, wristlets and other welcome items for the Acton lads.

By October the Acton company of Home Guards had enlisted 36 members and much interest was taken in the instruction drill. Capt. Torrance Beardmore drilled the company twice a week, while Col. Noble arranged for a supply of rifles so that practice with firearms might be undertaken.

While the Acton Tanning Co. was running overtime turning out leather for army saddles, bridles and belts, word came from England that Capt. D. I. Schultz, formerly captain of Acton Company of Halton Regiment was arrested on suspicion of being a German spy. Comments in the Free Press, "Everybody here knows Dave always was a good loyal patriotic Canadian even if his name has a German look."

While Capt. A. O. T. Beardmore wrote asking "every man to muster" in the Home Guard, a cable-station arrived from Salisbury Plains, England. "The Acton soldier boys are all well and send greetings to Acton and vicinity," signed Fred Wright.

In November of 1914 the Acton Post Office and government building was opened as Acton continued to progress. In January of 1915 a letter from Sgt. F. Coles reminded Acton that "we live chiefly on bread and jam and cheese, with one hot meal every day. . . . We fared well at Christmas. Every man was

Fashion Hint



Off to the wedding in a sheer dress and floppy garden party hat! Black with white polka dots lends classic enchantment to this coat style dress that's fabulously happy in its perfect styling. And: with a discreet bracket (so-starched petticoats beneath!).

White gloves, white hat, white purse. Try as we may to be different, nothing ever looks as well with black as the clean, well-groomed white.

given six days leave except those who lost the privilege through misconduct."

A bulletin in March of 1915 reported that "Acton soldiers in the trenches of France acquitted themselves with credit and were praised by their officers." At the same time in Acton two Germans were arrested "who have been having too much to say in regard to the present war and their sympathy with Germany. The incident caused considerable excitement about the town and more arrests are looked for tomorrow."

Three years of patriotic fund raising shows followed on the home front as news from the trenches brought word of wounded, killing and missing. The Red Cross kept knitting their welcome gifts and sending parcels to the Acton lads that joined the forces.

Gradually men from the front returned with their experiences and wounds that had taken them away from the actual fighting. "The War at Last is Over" proclaimed the end to the first great war and bloody conflict.

LILACS SETTING FOR HEWAT-BESSEM WEDDING IN GUELPH RECENTLY

White and mauve lilacs decorated St. James' Anglican Church, Guelph for the wedding recently of Elizabeth Bessem, daughter of Mr. Herman Bessem, Stenborg Farm, R. 4, Rockwood and Kenneth Andrew Hewat, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Richard Hewat, Oxford Street.

The Rev. W. J. B. Meloche solemnized the marriage at four o'clock. Mr. Bessem gave his daughter, in marriage, a white velvety bridal gown was styled with a full flowing skirt and tiered with French lace caught at the front with tiny bows. Lace trimming on the yolk was enhanced by tiny pearls and she wore lace mittens and a bonnet accented in holder fingertip with Joseph Granger's of Toronto. She carried a white prayer book and streamers knotted with lily-of-the-valley.

As maid of honor Miss Helen Emberson was in pale green applied organdy with matching head-dress and bouquet of deep mauve and white lilies. The junior bridesmaid, Miss Wilma Bessem, sister of the bride, wore a similar dress in pink and carried pale mauve and white lilies.

Wynne Dunbar, R.R. 1, Campbellville, was best man and the usher, were the groom's brother-in-law, Joseph Granger, of Toronto, and the bride's brother Henry Bessem of Rockwood.

Wedding music was played by the church organist, Mrs. Bartlett. A reception followed at Stenborg Farm where Mrs. E. Porfold received wearing a yellow and white tulle dress, white accessories and a corsage of pink carnations. She was assisted by the groom's mother in a powder blue crape gown with navy accessories and corsage of pink carnations.

Guests were from Guelph, Acton, Rockwood, Campbellville, Toronto, Oak Ridges, Oshawa and Stratford. For a wedding trip to the Maritime provinces the bride changed to a green and gray suit with white carnations. On their return Mr. and Mrs. Hewat will live at Eden Mills.

BACK LATER?

A short man came into a restaurant and sat down in a booth. The waitress brought him a glass of water and a menu, then left to wait on other customers. It was a busy hour, the little man's head did not show over the back of the booth, and the waitress forgot him. Eventually she realized she had never taken his order. She rushed to the booth. It was empty, but a note was propped neatly against a glass. It read: "Out for Lunch"—Life's Like That! in the Reader's Digest.

Kent a fibre plant cultivated in tropical regions as a substitute for jute has been under trial at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, to determine its adaptability to Canadian conditions. According to results secured in 1951 by the fibre division, this plant contains from 8 to 10 per cent. of fibre, but so far as it can be learned in one season, it is not particularly suited to Canadian conditions.

Vocational Visits For High School

Ten vocational visits have been made by students of Acton high school recently, to learn something of different occupations and the requirements necessary.

Miss C. Grindley was the leader of a group which learned of a business office at the Wool Combing Corp. Those attending were Elaine Hufnagel, Betty Price, Helen Keelan, Evelyn McDonald, Betty Sinclair, Diane Dawkins and Maureen Kinrend.

Journalism was seen in action at the Acton Free Press, when Mr. E. Hansen conducted a group which consisted of Marilyn Mellor, Betty Williamson, Faye Dawkins, Dennis Papillon, Janice Baker, Deanna Grier, Bill McHugh, Desmond O'Rourke and Rod Force.

Baxter Laboratory's business office was visited by Joyce Allan, Joyce Farmer, Mary Jennings, Virena Johnstone, Barbara Smith, Barbara Turner and Annamarie Spitzer led by Miss E. Harris.

Considering a machinist's career at Acton Machine Shops with Mr. Heron were Bill McCall, Hugh Sirra, Wayne Arbie, Francis Hefernan, Bill Coon, Billie Price, Frank Benton and Ronald Holston.

Principal O. Robbins led a group considering auto mechanics at Garner Motors. Attending were Paul Lawson, John Crensey, Bill Skilling, David Cooke, Richard Mason, Bob Cuxa, Russell Arbie and Bob Coon.

Shirley Thompson, Grade 13, acted as leader for a group which visited the kindergarten of the public school—Pauline Papillon, Denise Coles, Peggy Oakes, Barbara Baxter, Joy Botell and Arlene Gordon.

Tentative public school teachers Marjorie Warne, Mary Braida, Ruth Marshall, Ena Jennings, Isabelle Ritchie and Nancy Lambert visited grade one with Carolyn Oakes, Grade 13/4 as leader.

Grade seven was visited by another group, Joyce Lambert, June Lindsay, Neilson Benton, Rochelle Henderson, Pat Terry, and Chris Lamb, led by Yvonne Brunelle of grade 13.

The business office at Beardmore and Co. was visited by Miss Grindley with Julia Kril, Betty Lambert, Frances Fletcher, Carol Fetterley, Kathleen McCristall, Catherine Brennan and Ruth Smith.

Three girls interested in telephone operating, Evelyn Saunders, Kathleen Foster and Vera Warne visited the Bell Telephone office with Miss Gammie.

The project was followed by reports which were filled in by the students.

Piano Recital by the pupils of Miss Ethel Franklin

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Cooper's DRUG STORE

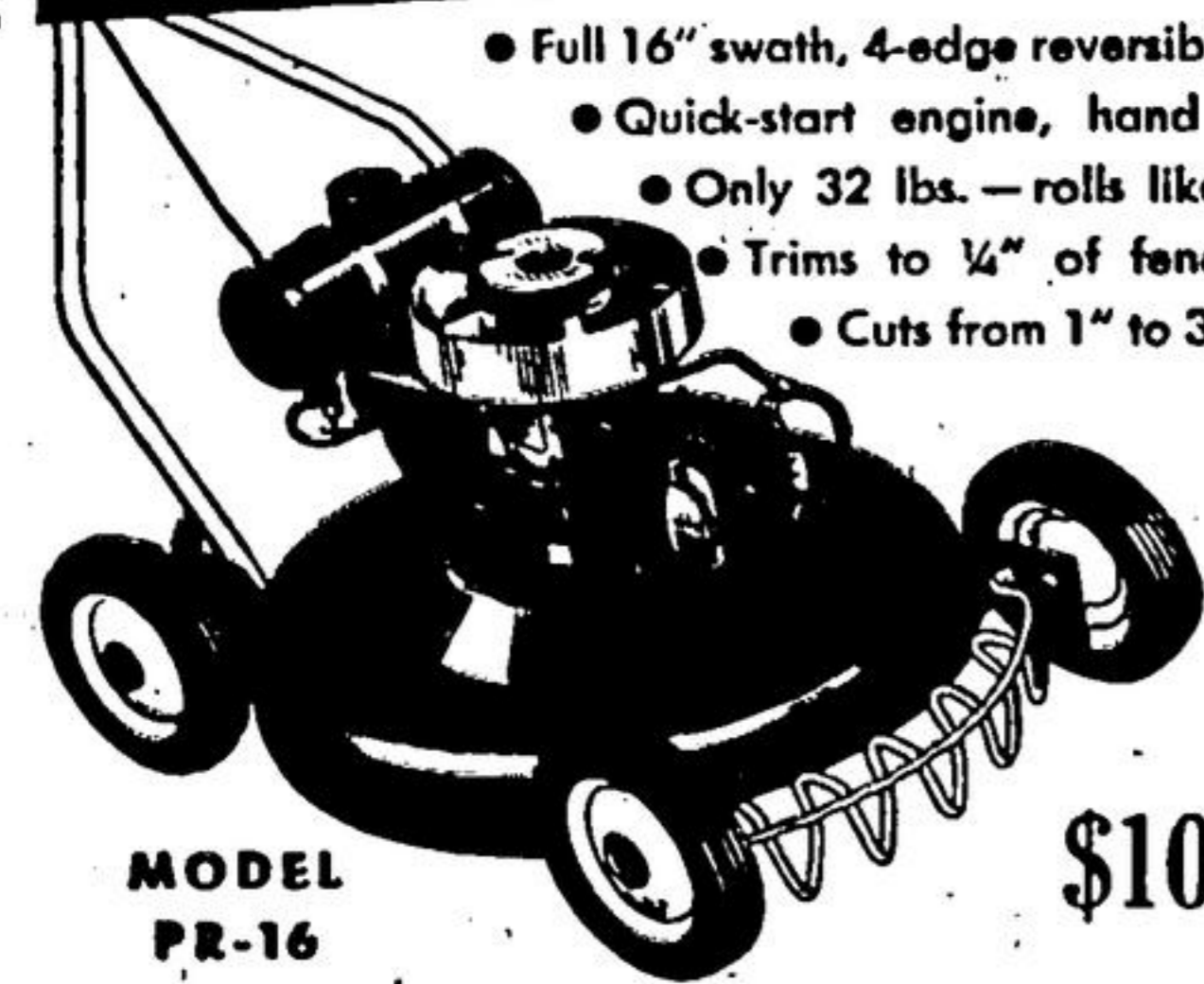
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