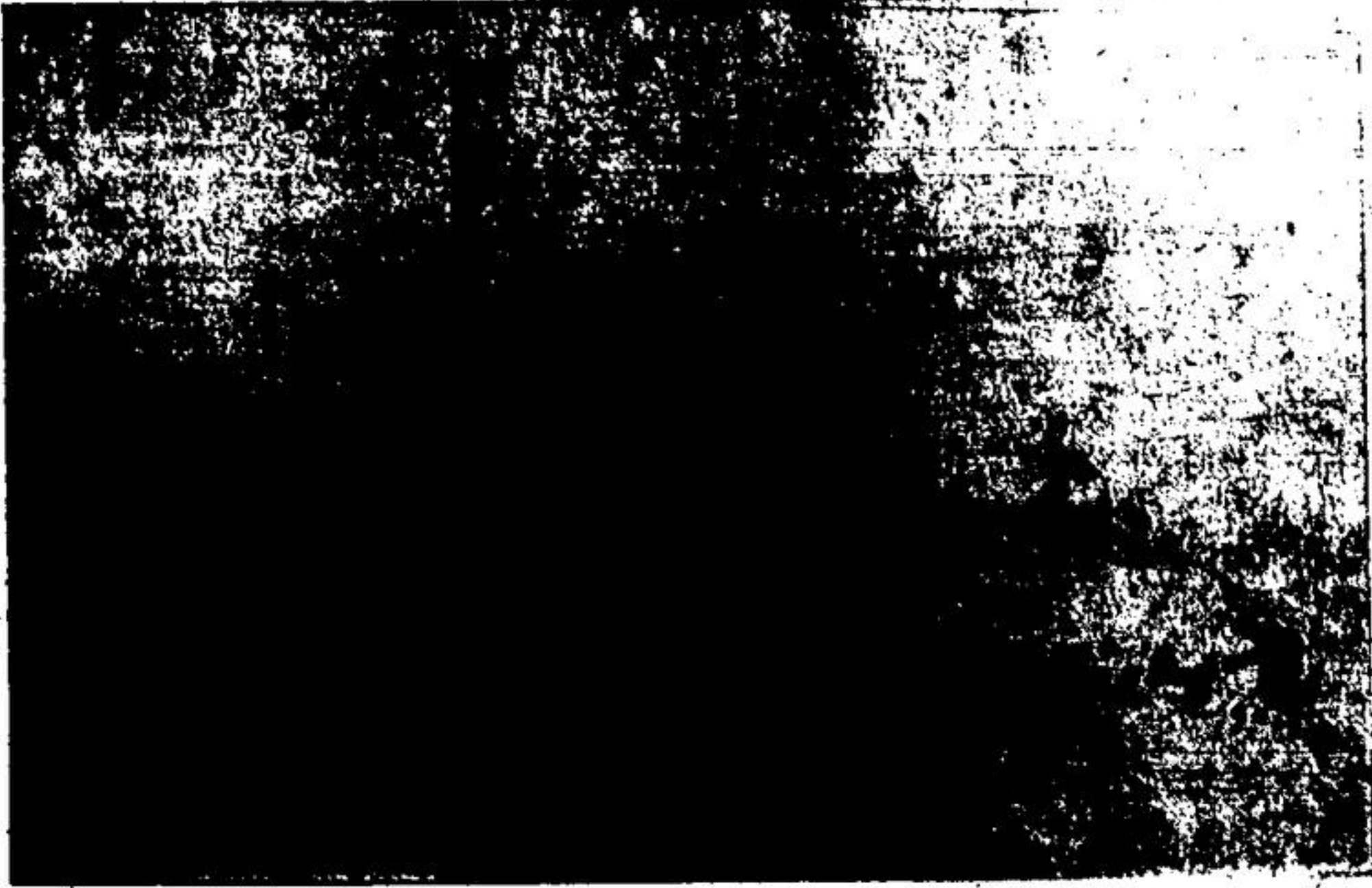


The Acton Free Press.

Seventy-Eighth Year.—No. 28.

ACTON, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 15th, 1953

Eight Home Print Pages—Six Cents



TELEPHONE SERVICE is just getting back to normal in the district following the damage to lines by the ice storm last week. A fine rain coated wires with ice that reached several inches of thickness and lines in the path of the storm collapsed under the strain. Hydro interruptions were general and numerous as workmen fought to keep services operating. A mild period on Sunday relieved some wires of their ice coating.

Coated Cables Collapse Ice Storm Cuts Service

Ice-broken hydro and telephone lines blacked out Acton and district for hours at a time over the week-end when an ice storm, described as the worst in a decade, covered the area. A freezing rain coated wires to unusual thickness causing a multitude of breaks that repairmen are still working to repair. Hydro went off in the section of Acton west of the C.N.R. tracks about 6 p.m. Saturday evening. A transformer on Church St. was the cause of the power interruption as tree branches, heavily coated with ice, sagged and broke over the lines causing short circuits.

Power interruptions continued on Sunday with week-end dinners interrupted in many Acton and district homes. Power just outside of Acton in Esqueving township went off on Saturday and was not returned even intermittently until late Sunday night.

Live wires had to be left unprotected in some cases as they suddenly fell to the ground. Local stores reported record sales on candles and hardware stores were busy selling coal oil as shoppers on Saturday night prepared for the week-end.

Heat was cut off for many dependent on oil burners but the spasmodic flow of current was enough to keep homes almost warm enough Saturday night shoppers carried flashlights and most stores had lanterns, lamps or candles as business slowed to a snail's pace. Guelph, Eramosa and Puslinch townships—the hardest hit by the storm but rural services in Erin, Esqueving and Nassagaway—also suffered from the storm.

Violent blue fluorescent flashes filled the sky Saturday night as short circuits were caused from falling limbs and wires.

Telephone service was restored in Acton by Tuesday but some rural phones may be disrupted for a longer period.

Clare S. Keith said interruptions were "pretty much general" over the Acton, Rockwood, Guelph, Arthur, Elora and Fergus district. Limbs covered the road around the crescent in Acton and many other streets had fallen branches brought down by the ice storm.

ACTON'S MODERN SEWERAGE PLANT IS SUBJECT OF MAGAZINE ARTICLE

Acton's new \$442,000 sanitary sewerage system is the subject of a detailed article in the December issue of "Civic Administration," a monthly magazine published by the Canadian administrative and electrical representatives. New ideas, trends, developments, techniques and equipment in various fields are featured as subject matter for articles.

The first article in the issue following regular departments "Acton's Modern Sewerage System" has six photographs of the local plant.

"This Ontario town's 3,000 inhabitants can now look back on the days of the septic tank and of flooded basements in the spring as things of the past as the new modern system collects some 200,000 gallons of sewage a day through eight miles of street sewers, pumps half of it up and over a height of land, and then conducts the whole flow through a trunk sewer a mile long to an efficient automatically operated sewage treatment plant beyond the town limits," the article says.

"The town system was financed by an increase in the mill rate of five mills and by imposing a sewer rate equal to double the prevailing water rate on the same bimonthly bill issued by the Public Utilities Commission," it is explained.

Details of the construction follow—the installing of street and trunk sewers, the cleaning and flushing,

Local hydro workmen were repairing lines from about 6:30 Saturday night until 4 a.m. Sunday morning. Taking a few hours out they returned to work Sunday morning and kept working until service was restored in town Sunday night. Acton electricians were called in to help restore damaged services and worked Monday with hydro men to complete repairs.

Sunday services were continued in Acton churches as hours were led by piano. Organs were useless and churches dependent on oil burners were cool.

Members of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter, I.O.D.E., met for their January meeting at the home of Mrs. R. M. McDonald. The hostess, Mrs. Long, presided.

Mrs. Mowal gave a most informative talk on the countries of the Middle East and their present-day problems.

Nominations for the officers for the coming year were held. Hostesses for the evening were Mrs. Youngblut, Mrs. Wolfe, Mrs. Salt, Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. K. Blow.

CAN'T YOU EAR?

The busy executive asked his secretary where his pencil was. "It's behind your ear," she replied. "Come, come!" snapped the big shot. "Am a busy man. Which ear?"

Florida Christmas Is Institute Topic

The regular meeting coming on New Year's Day, the Acton Women's Institute was held the following week at the home of Mrs. R. L. Davidson, president, and welcomed the members and visitors.

The roll call was answered by naming a cabinet minister and his portfolio. The motto of the month, "Duty makes us do things well, but love makes us do them better," was given by Mrs. Wm. Denny.

In the home economics department, Mrs. Fryer gave a recipe for a window cleaner, in historical research, Mrs. George Lantz gave an interesting story on the origin of sending Christmas cards.

As this was citizenship meeting, Mrs. Wm. Hamilton prepared and read a paper on "This Canada of Ours," and Mrs. Fred Hunter contributed a story from a "New Canadian in the Making."

A pleasant feature of the meeting were the informal talks by Mrs. Pearl Kennedy and Mrs. O. E. Robbins on their visit to Florida at Christmas time. Mrs. W. Hall and Miss Marjory Hall commented briefly on their impressions.

Mrs. Kennedy displayed various things, including cotton as it grows, berries from the camphor trees and many pictures of the various places visited. She then presented everyone with a delicious orange to share her treat from this tropical country.

The president thanked all who contributed to the afternoon's enjoyment and following the singing of "The Maple Leaf," a social time was enjoyed over the tea cups.

Dorothy Dawkins Heads Knox Group

The January meeting of Daughters of Knox was held at the home of Mrs. R. H. Armstrong on Monday, January 5. The meeting was followed by the flag ceremony, opened by Rev. R. H. Armstrong.

These were: honorary presidents, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Hassard; past president, Ruth Smith; president, Dorothy Dawkins; first vice-president, Diane Dawkins; second vice-president, Elizabeth Jany; secretary, Norma Wilds; treasurer, Lorraine Mullin.

Card convener, Marilyn Sigworth; press convener, Olive Ellerby; pianist, Ruth Smith; group leaders, June Watkins, Olive Ellerby and Jackie Watkins.

Lakeside Chapter Selects Committee

Nominations were handed in at the regular meeting of the Lakeside Chapter, I.O.D.E., Tuesday evening in the Legion Hall Mrs. H. Hinton was in charge of the meeting.

Mrs. C. Pickett, Mrs. A. Orr and Mrs. J. Mellon were named a nominating committee to report at the February meeting.

Reports were given on Christmas hampers and plants 68 diapers were handed in and another bolt of flannelette purchased.

The problem of the bridal couple is how to elude the guests after the ceremony without eluding the photographers.

School Head Tells Of System, Support

The Women's Association of the United Church met at the home of Mrs. F. Cleave on Tuesday with the president, Mrs. H. Burns, presiding. The meeting opened with the Old and prayer. The devotional period, taken by Mrs. E. A. Curry, was on "Dorcas the Challenger." Roll call was answered by "Beginning."

Plans were made for the annual meeting by the ladies. Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the late F. Johnson, who so recently passed away.

Annual reports were presented at this meeting. Ninety pieces of mail were sent out and the report from each officer was very satisfactory. There was one removal by death, two removals from town and eight new members.

A very encouraging talk by Rev. E. A. Curry dealt with the very successful year's work.

Mrs. James Moore introduced Mrs. Houston, superintendent of Cedarvale school for girls in Georgetown, who gave a very fine talk on the management of the home, the system and supporters. She and her staff are doing wonderful work for the girls of various ages under their care. She thanked the Society for the gifts sent to the girls at Christmas, which were very much appreciated. A vote of thanks was given by Miss E. Hawthorne for her talk.

Mrs. Cleave, assisted by Mrs. A. Fryer, Mrs. D. Drysdale, Mrs. J. Wilderspin and Mrs. J. Synon, served refreshments. A vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Cleave for her home and to the lunch assistants.

Hydro Man Speaks Acton, Rockwood

About 600 Acton school students heard Ron Cookley of the public relations department of the Hydro, speak on power and safety Tuesday morning. Groups were divided into three assemblies, with one for the high school and a junior and senior assembly for the public school.

At the assemblies with Mr. Cookley were Ted Monaghan of the H.E.P.C., Earl McCann of the Guelph district rural hydro and Jack McGehee of Acton.

At the senior assembly, he showed a film on the construction of the George Rayner Dam at Thebes, which took two and a half years to build. He explained what hydro meant, mentioning household switches, the importance of insulators and the danger of touching loose wires.

To the junior group, he showed slides of Niagara Falls.

From Acton he went to Rockwood, where he addressed 200 more.

Many a girl will scream at the sight of a mouse but will get into a car with a wolf.

J. R. MacARTHUR HEADS COMMISSION APPOINTED AT INAUGURAL MEETING

The inaugural meeting of Acton Public Utilities Commission was held on Friday evening, January 9. Mayor F. Oakes and Commissioners C. E. Wood and J. R. MacArthur were present. J. R. MacArthur was chosen chairman for the year and F. Oakes as deputy with authority to sign all necessary papers.

A letter from the Bell Telephone Co. outlined rates that would be charged for having a signal system installed from the sewage treatment plant to Superintendent J. Lambert's home. It was decided to have a two party rural phone installed at the plant. Cost of installation of a private signal system is to be investigated.

Superintendent Mason reported that a pole had been broken off on Young Street and eastward track roof damaged when the services were pulled down. Repairs have been made to Mrs. Duffield's house and the account is to be sent to the motorist responsible.

Superintendent Mason also reported that three street lights had been installed on Bower Street east of the C.N.R. tracks.

The installation of different lights on Mill Street east from John Street to the railway tracks was discussed. This matter will be taken up at a future meeting.

It was reported that the hydro meter at the sewage treatment plant was not working satisfactorily and that repairs were being made to the meter.

Instructions were issued to J. Lambert to purchase sewer rods for cleaning out laterals on the town system. The cost of these rods is \$128.50.

Superintendent Lambert reported that the first freeze-up on the water system had occurred on a house service. As this supply pipe runs across private property, a change is to be made in the summer months, feeding directly to the property from the supply main.

Superintendent Lambert also reported that the priming tank on the emergency fire pumps had sprung a leak. This tank is to be removed for inspection and fixed or a new one installed. A switch on one of the fire pumps had to go and this is to be repaired.

An extra heater had to be installed at the pump house on Main Street north as the temperature in the building had fallen below freezing.

Four Mats For Y Purchased by Club

The Acton Y Men's Club decided to purchase four new mats for the Y.M.C.A. as the old ones are of a type that can not be repaired, at their meeting on Thursday evening, January 8.

Reports were given on the swimming classes and the boxing tournament.

Induction service was held for Lorrie Garner and Dr. A. Armstrong.

An interim finance report was given by Tom Watson.

A Yugi stunt was shown by Cliff Sutton.

Gordon Oder, as speaker for the evening, told of "A little bit of banking." The old time goldsmith, he said, grew from a keeper of gold for safe-keeping and loaned money on this gold, while the receipts he issued were being used for currency. This was the origin of the bank note.

The first bank in Canada was formed in Montreal in 1817. Mr. Oder said, by nine merchants. The Bank of Canada was formed in 1855.

Jack Moles was a visitor at the meeting.

Hear Reports at Guild Inaugural

St. Alban's Guild held the first meeting of the new year in the Parish Hall, the new president, Mrs. Sutton, presiding. In the absence, through illness, of the secretary, the retiring secretary, Mrs. Fountain, read the minutes of the last meeting. The treasurer, Mrs. Newton, read her report.

Business for the ensuing month was discussed, including catering. Following the close of the business meeting, lunch was served by the committee in charge and a social time enjoyed.

CORONATION SOUVENIR

About 432,000 London England, school children over the age of five will receive as a Coronation souvenir a propelling pencil. Estimated cost is \$168,000.

Award 24 Prizes at Euchre, Penny Sale

A very successful euchre and penny sale was held at the Y.M.C.A. on January 9 sponsored by the "Y" Ladies' Auxiliary. There were 10 tables of euchre, the prizes going to ladies' first, Mrs. Joanne second ladies' Mrs. Semerville, men's first D. Bean and men's second E. Jennings.

The prizes from the penny sale went to the following: Jack Creasey three prizes; Mrs. S. Sinclair two prizes; Mrs. H. Hale, Dunn, two prizes; Mrs. H. Harris, Mrs. A. Gerstis; Mrs. Joanne; Mrs. Footitt; Mrs. Bill Fields; Mrs. G. Paul; Mrs. I. Turcott; Mrs. B. Dolphin; Mrs. G. Jordan; Mrs. H. Lambert; Mrs. Osborne; Mrs. S. Brunelle; Mrs. R. Haines; Mrs. Williams; Mr. Doug. Rogers; St. David's; Mrs. Fred Swain; St. Paul; Lila Murdoch; Palmerton.

Donations for the penny sale were received from 23 local stores.

PHALANX CLUB MEETS, DISCUSSES PROJECTS, PLANS ELECTION

The Phalanx club met on Tuesday in the Y.M.C.A. with 10 members and three new members present. Projects discussed include an ice carnival, euchre or theatre frolic.

New officers will be elected at the meeting next week.

Watches, Cash, Stolen In Hardware Break In

Thieves broke into the warehouse and store of Symon Hardware Wednesday night or early Thursday morning. Entrance was made to the warehouse by a window from which the screen had been jimmied and the glass broken. Missing this morning when Mac Symon opened the store was about \$25 and a number of watches valued at \$230.

W. Carnochan noticed the break-in Thursday morning when he returned from working on the night shift about 7:30 a.m. The screen had been pried up on the warehouse window behind the Home Furnishings and Bradley store.

Ditty Bag on Duty For Almost Decade

Be sure gifts packed in ditty bags for seamen will keep a long time. During the last week, Mrs. Ellery received a thank you especially for cookies and candy from Able Seaman D. C. Russell of H.M.C.S. Athabaskan, which recently returned to our west coast.

In answer to an appeal by the Navy League, Mrs. Ellery packed that ditty bag during the summer of 1944. The sailor just received it for Christmas 1952.

Member is Hostess For WMS Meeting

The first meeting in the New Year 1953, of the Senior Auxiliary, Women's Missionary Society, of Knox Church was held at the home of Mrs. R. M. McDonald, with the President in the chair.

Devotions were taken by Mrs. Blow and Mrs. H. Allison.

Mrs. A. J. Buchanan very ably and in a most interesting way, introduced the new Study Book on Africa—giving a great amount of information and conducting a quiz on that country. The auxiliary can look forward to an interesting year's work.

Seven Hospitalized After Sunday Crash

Seven people were hospitalized following a two-car crash on No. 7 highway about a mile west of Rockwood on Sunday afternoon. The ambulance from Acton was called to the scene as well as one from Guelph. Police said a shower of mud, ice and snow, thrown up by the wheel of an unidentified vehicle, was responsible for the accident.

The injured were Kenneth Robinson, Guelph, lacerated right knee, John Drake, Guelph, triple fractured pelvis; Harvey Pettit, fractured pelvis, fractured right shoulder, cuts and abrasions, lacerated right arm; Gordon Karn, Guelph, concussion; Ian Smith, Toronto, cuts and abrasions; Miss Nancy Smith, Toronto, bruised forehead, cut leg and shock; R. B. Smith, Toronto, shock, cuts and abrasions.

Ice Storm Causes 26 Hour Power Cut

The village was without hydro for 26 hours due to the week-end ice storm. The local telephone system is also badly crippled, because of broken poles and wires.

Services in the local Presbyterian Church were cancelled on Sunday due to hydro failure to operate the furnace.

Presentation to Newbluffs

On Friday evening, neighbors and friends of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Leitch (nee Lila Bayne), gathered to honor them on their recent marriage. Cards were played, after which Mr. Errett Currie read an appropriate address and the presentation of a chrome kitchen table and chairs was made.

Women's Institute Meeting

Mrs. Gordon Aitken was hostess for the monthly meeting of the Women's Institute. Mrs. D. G. Robertson presided and Mrs. Norman McKenzie read the minutes and correspondence. The roll call, "How to welcome a new citizen," stressed friendliness and the golden rule. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

A paper on "Citizenship and Education" was read by the convener, Mrs. George Grundy. Mrs. Norman McKenzie played an instrumental and Mrs. A. D. McKinley read a portion from the hand book.

The hostess, assisted by Mrs. H. Smith and Mrs. W. Awrey, served a dainty lunch at the close.