

PICTURES AND PROPS, WORK AND FUN AS NEW CANADIANS ATTEND SCHOOL

"This is a spoon," the teacher said, holding up a piece of chalk. And the members of her class nodded, they knew it was a spoon and they knew it was chalk, too. They knew the teacher was just pretending that chalk was a spoon, even though quite a few of them wouldn't know the word "pretending" from the word "snow shovel." Things like this go on all the time.

had pictures in specially prepared books so that even those who can't speak a single word of English can understand what is being taught. They look at the pictures and then repeat the word written beneath the picture after the teacher.

Miss Snyder brings props, too, and soon she was holding up pieces of bright wood saying provocatively, "This is..." and several voices with various accents would say confidently "yellow" or "red".

Altogether 43 New Canadians are learning English and Canadian citizenship in these weekly lessons. For the second year, two teachers are needed to accommodate a class. Miss Snyder teaches the elementary group and Miss Edythe Harris the more advanced pupils, who go on to learn about Canada as well as the English language. There her problems may become more abstract, last week she was called on to define "human." But Miss Snyder has moments when she's at a loss for a reply, too. During her lesson on colors a young Dutch man asked thoughtfully, "What's the difference between maize and parson?"

Of these 43 23 speak Dutch, nine speak German, three Italian and one Czech. Two speak both Hungarian and German two speak Dutch and English and one, Czech and Hungarian.

Most of them can speak a little English and they learn a day by day as well as Tuesday by Tuesday at class. Some can understand, but want to improve their grammar and pronunciation.

Most of them live in Acton, quite a few on rural routes and some in other centres.

Part of each class does lessons in the special books while the other half answer questions and read together. Some may be putting words into sentences (for instance needle "That needle has one eye," one student said) or filling in blanks (for instance "This is a tray, it is a tray").

Some questions are real puzzles such as making a sentence from a jumble of words. "The night is cold" in a sad German tone and "I... two cuts are in the garden".

Everyone reading a story about a library had a different way of saying "Tom Sawyer" but at least no one had to tackle it more than once. The teachers have the worst time, and the class often smiles when she tackles the roll call.

To native Canadians, the roll sounds like a long tongue twister just by saying "Glenzer, Walter, Wolk-Jungen, Hey, or Miss Huppert for a starter."

Those attending the classes are Martin Ancker, Mrs. Mary Ancker, Yvon Askam, Wolt-Jungen, Hey, Joe Huppert, Mrs. Anne Bowman, John Bowman, Amado Fortina Hill



WATCHING ATTENTIVELY as their teacher, Miss Mary Snyder, shows them a lesson in their text book are five members of the Basic English classes, held every Tuesday evening in the high school. From left to right are Oswald Saroni, who came from Italy, Rudi Payer from Austria, Fred Pfeille from Germany, Maria Schmidt from Hungary and Peter Klooster from Holland.

Acton High School News

by Neil Benton
(intended for last week)

An assembly was held on November 27 in the public school auditorium under the leadership of the Student Council. The opening exercises were led by Peggy Oakes. This was the second assembly led by the S.C. at which the president and his aides discussed student affairs with the student body.

Deniss Papillon opened the meeting and spoke on co-operation between the S.C. and the student body. The president then led a discussion between the two groups of students concerning matters at hand.

Janice Baker later thanked the teachers for their help with the past commencement.

Mr. Heron is finally back after a four day "sick leave". The school is now back to normal.

A film called "A Tale of Two Cities" was shown to the student body. It was a very interesting one. A few tears were shed but I'm sure everyone thoroughly enjoyed the picture.

An air of activity has now hit Acton H.S. for the examination period at hand commencing on December 14th.

District Governor Commends Y's Men

Emory Knill, district governor of Y's Men's clubs, paid a visit to the local club on Thursday November 26. Mr. Knill who was introduced by Wes Wolfe, spoke on the various aspects of being a member of the Y's Men's club, stating that while there were certain obligations in being a Y's Man and that a man may run the risk of becoming involved in too many activities, it is the happy man who is a busy man. He felt that it was the duty of every Y's man to be community-minded.

The speaker was ably thanked by Charles Kirkness.

While Mr. Knill's remarks were addressed to all members of the club he was also very appropriate at the time as four new members, Bob Roddick, Bruce Shoemaker, Doug Rogers and Bill Wilson were inducted and received their club pins.

The induction team, under the leadership of Garnet McKenzie, carried out a very impressive ceremony. During the evening, Mr. Knill commended the club members on the fine work they were doing.

Canada today is second only to the United States as a producer of aluminum.

Mike Cox

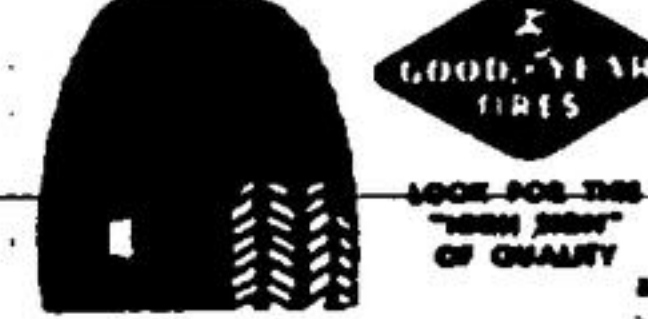
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Christmas Sacred New Year's Merry

The most French-speaking Canadians, Christmas is a very sacred day. It starts with Mass at midnight and then a feast in the middle of the night.

They call this Reveillon. They eat frozen puddings, ragouts, stews, and old French dishes. Christmas is a gay light hearted day with them. Their day for good cheer, merry making and whoopee is at New Year's.

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