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Eight Home Print Pages—Six Cents

Gloomy 13th Power Bill Evokes PUC's Criticism

Gloomy news—the 13th power bill—was read at last week's meeting of the Public Utilities Commission. Members were informed by the town's hydro wholesaler, the H.E.P.C., that a total of \$5,769.88 was owing for hydro received in 1953. This figure is the total deficit of cost over interim payments made monthly through the year.

Lack of Converters At New School Said Cause of Work Lag

Details in connection with the building program in North Halton High School District came in for attention of the Board at the meeting in Acton on Monday night. The contract for drapes in the Acton and Georgetown schools was awarded to Duncan McPhee of Guelph.

It was pointed out that building operations had almost stopped owing to the fact that arrangements had not been made for 60 cycle converters at the schools. The secretary was instructed to contact Messrs. Barnett and Reider immediately and have the arrangements completed so the heating system could be tested and put into operation.

The room at Milton had been plastered but here too a heating problem had been encountered for the new room and work had been slowed down.

By motion the salary schedule was altered to allow the Board to pay up to \$200 per year for experience up to a maximum of \$800 allowance for experience. The secretary was instructed to inform the teachers of this change in schedule.

Purchase Part of Lot
The secretary was authorized to offer Miss Little a sum of \$400 for the purchase of part of her lot adjoining the school property in Milton. The Board also agreed to erect an adequate fence providing the offer was accepted before the end of the month.

The auditor's report for the year was presented and studied by the Board and the inspector's report on the three schools was given attention. Accounts passed amounted to \$13,897.35 for the month.

Purchase of Shop Equipment and Science for Acton and Home Economics Equipment for Georgetown were also considered by the Board but no decisions were made.

T. Gordon Ringler of Laurier Lake was engaged to teach commercial and other subjects at Acton school. Mr. Ringler has had over 10 years' experience and will take the vacancy caused by the removal of Mrs. Hess, who will take the home economics work at Georgetown next term.

Trip, Dentist, Wood Teachers Discussed

The monthly meeting of the Nagsaweya Township School Area Board was held on March 17. The minutes of the last meeting and the usual bills were passed.

The tenders for wood were given to George Hewer and Melvin Storey. A letter is being sent to Dr. A. J. Buchanan asking that the dentist visit the schools as soon as possible.

The pupils of grade seven and eight of the area visited the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, and the Toronto TV station this week. Buses picked the children up at the schools.

The teachers for the coming term were discussed at length, also the repairs to the schools and grounds this year.

Medic: "Is there any insanity in your family?"
Bill: "Yes. I'm afraid there is. They keep writing me for money."

Square Dance Club Fills Parish Hall

The largest crowd of the season packed St. Alban's Parish Hall Friday evening for the last dance of the season, sponsored by Acton Square Dance Club.

A guest performer was Earl Greer, formerly with the Grand Ole Opry of Nashville, Tennessee, and a champion fiddler. Mr. and Mrs. Murray of Guelph gave an exhibition schottische.

Callers were Don Nelson of Guelph, Morris Fay of Hamilton and Hugh Harris of Milton. Russ Miller, organizer of the Royal Winter Fair square dancing champions, Uncle Penn's set from Hamilton, was another guest.

The crowd of 115 proved the success of the Square Dance Club. The dates for the first five dances for next fall are already set and the Parish Hall booked.

Prizes were won and special dances enjoyed.

No Further Action On Hours Proposal

No further progress was reported this week by the local retail merchants' association on efforts to gain over 75 per cent. approval of proposed new store hours from certain classifications of town businesses.

Last week it was indicated the law requiring 75 per cent. agreement from each and all categories of merchants, in order to effect a by-law change, had been revised. However, it was pointed out by the retail merchants' association chairman here, C. W. Bradley, that this has not been confirmed.

A meeting planned for this week was postponed when it was learned the committee named to conduct further groundwork for the hours change proposal was not yet ready to make a report.

Earlier this month a poll was taken among local businessmen to determine the attitude on Friday night opening instead of Saturday night store hours. Approximately 80 per cent. of the merchants polled favored the new hours. However, those against the proposal were distributed in retail classifications in such proportion as to block the 75 per cent. required for all categories of trade.

Another account outstanding, held by A. Vines, is to be put to legal process for collection. The Secretary was also asked to inform the owner of a local house that if service charges in connection with rectifying a water meter are not paid promptly, the materials will be removed, water cut off from the house and owner required to fix the meter to the satisfaction of the Commission.

A letter from Mrs. M. Parry contained the information that a tenant had not been living in her Park St. home for four years. Mrs. Parry wrote she was unaware of the second service charge made out to a house with two families, and inquired about a rebate for the four year period.

"Ignorance No Excuse"
Consensus of the Commission held that "ignorance of the ruling is no excuse." Members agreed that since they had been notified, the second service charge would be dropped.

After some economy-minded discussion, the Commission decided not to send a representative to the Electrical Employers Association convention in Toronto Hydro superintendent D. Mason offered to attend the convention and pay his own expenses.

Superintendent Mason later reported another light installed on Alice Street, according to the request of the Council. He said a flasher light was on order and, after installation, power used would be paid on a commercial rate.

Discussion on a proposal to wrap a heating cable around the fire siren in order to prevent freezing, was followed by a suggestion from E. Tyber that an inquiry be made in other towns to find out what precautions are taken to prevent freezing.

(Continued on Page Eight)

Flames Evict District Family Sunday



SIXTH FIRE IN SIX WEEKS to strike at district farm homes occurred Sunday when a house owned by Laurens Tryssenaar, who works in Acton and would have marked his family's first year in their own home Tuesday, caught fire. Mr. Tryssenaar, an immigrant from Holland, points here to charred portion which carried flames up the walls to fan out over the roof of the six room frame house.

Flames Completely Destroy Frame Home Parents, Nine Children Left Homeless

Mr. and Mrs. William Laing and their nine children were left homeless last Thursday when flames destroyed their small frame home in Equeusing township, about five miles north of Milton. The house was already razed by fire when the Milton fire brigade arrived.

"It went up like a match box," Milton fire chief A. Clement said. Mrs. Laing smelled smoke while she was preparing her baby's formula and rushed outside to see what was the matter. She ran

back into the house after seeing the gables of the home on fire. She brought five children outside to safety and called for help. Four other children had not returned from school.

Mr. Laing was at the rear of the farm gathering firewood when the fire occurred. Milton district fire department answered the alarm and came quickly to the home on the third line of Equeusing. The blaze spread so rapidly nothing could be saved except a baby buggy.

Following an investigation, the fire chief believed the fire started either in the pipes or the chimney located on the upper floor.

Two Presentations Made To M. Sprowl

Two presentations were made to Mac Sprowl Saturday evening at his home, R.R. 4, Acton, Rev. R. Armstrong with Jim Greer, president of Knox Young People's Society, presented Mr. Sprowl with a zippered, leather-bound Bible on behalf of the Young People's

A group of Acton Junior Farmers came to the farm, bringing Mr. Sprowl a pen and pencil set. Fred Williamson, president, made the presentation.

The evening before at the Halton Junior Farmer banquet, he had been given a travelling alarm clock by the Halton Federation of Agriculture and an electric razor by Halton Juniors.

He left Sunday on a six months' study tour of the United Kingdom.

Awards Made, Commissioners Attend As Guides, Brownies Entertain Parents

First Acton Brownies and Girl Guides entertained their parents at an Open Night in the Scout Hall, Tuesday, March 9th. Following the opening ceremonies, District Commissioner of North Halton, Mrs. E. Wood of Milton, and Area Commissioner, Mrs. Robert Hoy of Aldershot, presented awards to the girls.

Several Brownies, Susan Wilson, Shirley Barrett, Margaret Price and Joan Ramsden, enacted the "Story of the Brownies", a fairy tale telling of the origin of the Brownies Pack. The story was read by Ella Jany.

Service stars for attendance were presented by the Commissioners. Brownies—first year—Carolyn Cook, Verma Churchill, Sandra Davidson, Barbara Davidson, Jo Anne Force, Elizabeth Forer, Carol Higgins, Ilona Kovacs, Barbara Norton, Susan Wilson, Leslie Doby, Barbara Ware.

Third year—Shirley Barrett, Rhona McEachern, Carol Goodwin, Donna Ledger, Shariel Marshall.

Fourth year—Margaret Armstrong, Robina Sagaski, Norma Sinclair, Ella Jany, Mary Lou Creighton, Grace Clow.

Service stars were presented to the following Guides: Second year—Betty Bean, Edith Francescato, Diane Newton, Anne D. Forer, Blaire Hether, Fay McEachern.

Third year—Shirley Mason, Fay Swaski.

Fourth year—Elizabeth Jany, Sheila Jones, Sheila Paul.

Fifth year—Peggy Bradshaw, Cooks, badges were presented to Peggy Bradshaw, Sheila Paul, Sylvia Jones, Elizabeth Jany.

Three Brownies received their Golden Hand and Brownie Wings before going up into Guide Company.

A joint campfire was enjoyed with a skit enacted by the Patrol Leaders. Songs were enjoyed and the meeting closed with the Guide and Brownie taps.

Golden Anniversary Celebrated Saturday by Mr. and Mrs. Albert McMullen, Bower Avenue, who were honored by their children and grandchildren at a family party in the Legion banquet hall.

Edwin Budd Reaches 90 Years of Age This Friday

A nonagenarian on Friday, March 26, will be Edwin Budd of R.R. 2, Campbellville, when he celebrates his 90th birthday.

Golden Wedding Is Marked with Party

Mr. and Mrs. Albert McMullen, residents of Acton for over 30 years, Saturday celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Canadian Legion banquet hall, where the couple's children and grandchildren gathered to honor them with a party.

Eight of the celebrants' children were present for the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. McMullen married March 22, 1904. Kenneth has 25 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. McMullen was born in Torrington, Ontario. Her husband was born in Bedford. Following their marriage they lived in Warton, Burke Falls and Edmonds, Alta before settling in Acton in 1927.

Three of their five children live in Acton: Jack and Albert M. McMullen and Mrs. R. Agnew. Grandchildren include Mrs. J. Smith, (widow Hamilton), Mrs. J. Smith, (widow London), Mrs. I. Kinsman, (widow Kinsman), Mrs. M. C. Cough, (widow North), Mrs. M. Reid, (widow Kinsman), Mrs. M. Reid, (widow Kinsman).

A third son, Wilbert, is in the Canadian Army. Elizabeth Kinsman was married to the late Mr. Kinsman, who died in 1948.

Mr. and Mrs. McMullen expressed their thanks to all friends, neighbors and relatives who made their anniversary a happy and memorable event. Many gifts and tokens of congratulations were received.



HALTON'S JUNIOR FARMERS last week held their annual banquet and dance in Trafalgar Memorial Hall, colorfully decorated in a St. Patrick's Day motif for the event. Shown here with the newly elected president, Don Matthews of Acton (center) are left to right: guest speaker Don Middleton, Ontario Junior Farmers president, treasurer, Wilma Sinclair, Mr. Matthews, secretary, Jean Peterson, Milton and past president, Harold Tyrrell. Story of the banquet is on page seven of this issue.

Sixth Fire in Area Within Six Weeks

This district's sixth farm blaze in little more than six weeks caused over \$1,000 damage to the home of Laurens Tryssenaar Sunday morning when fire, believed to have started around the wall thimble of the kitchen stove, crept up a partition and spread under the roof of the six-room frame dwelling.

The Tryssenaar home, located on the first line about four miles north-east of here is on what was formerly known as the Hepburn farm. The present owner, an employee of Boardman Co. here and formerly with Hetchen's Bakery, came to Canada from Holland with his family six years ago.

Water for Firefighters
Ample water, lying in large puddles and in a farm pond, supplied the bucket brigade of neighbors and friends who fought the blaze before firemen from Erin and Rockwood reached the scene.

Mr. Tryssenaar, father of three girls and one boy, paid tribute to the firefighters in their successful efforts to save the house from total destruction.

Mr. Tryssenaar told the Free Press that before the fire—which started about 11 a.m.—could gain much headway, neighbors hurried to carry out furniture and personal possessions. Of the furniture, only a few articles in the two upstairs bedrooms were burned.

Many Offers of Help
Commenting on the offers of help from fellow immigrants and the support he was given, Mr. Tryssenaar said, "I never knew so many of my countrymen were around Acton." "We'll rebuild as soon as I can manage," he affirmed.

The loss was partially covered by insurance.

Mr. Tryssenaar bought the farm on March 16, 1953. He and his family would have celebrated a full year in their home on Tuesday, two days after the fire.

At present Mr. and Mrs. Tryssenaar and their children, who range in age from infant to nine years, are living in a nearby three-room apartment.

Other District Fires
On March 9 a fire at the home of Harold Michie, about eight miles south of here, levelled the storey-and-a-half house and made homeless five people. A day later, the home of Clarence Dodds, three miles west of Speyside, went up in flames and turned out the parents and six children.

March 15 the farm home of George Wilson, sixth line of Equeusing, took fire and considerable damage was done before the blaze was extinguished. Last Thursday, March 18, Mr. and Mrs. William Laing and their nine children were left homeless when their home, seven miles south of here on the third line of Equeusing, went up in flames.

However, prelude to these district disasters was a tragedy. On February 7, Emerson Laver and two of his daughters perished in a blaze which swept through their Hornby area home, destroyed the house and made homeless Mrs. Laver and three sons.

Transport Trailer, Cargo Total Loss

Fire totally destroyed the large diesel transport trailer of Mellor Construction Company early last Friday morning, although the driver, Harold Roszell, was able to detach the tractor and save it from the flames.

The loss of the large trailer, with about \$8,000 worth of seed, was covered by insurance.

Mr. Roszell was driving the huge transport from Edmonton to Montreal with the load of seed and was about 10 miles out of Hawkesbury when he smelled smoke. He stopped the cab and hastily used the transport's fire extinguisher. When the fire spread, he called the Hawkesbury fire brigade which explained that by the time they had received permission to go into the country, the damage would have been done.

He detached the cab from the trailer and drove it back to Acton, arriving Saturday.

The trailer, a complete loss, has been towed to Toronto. Cause of the fire has not been determined. The large diesel transport, which attracted much attention in Acton last year when it arrived the first of a kind in Canada.

Ministers Discuss Radio Broadcasting

Members of Acton Ministerial Association expressed interest in broadcasting on "Inspiration Time" over radio station CJOY when they met in the United Church parsonage Wednesday morning. They had received a letter from Guelph asking them to consider broadcasting for a week each. The secretary, Rev. Ralph Price, agreed to write for further information.

Summer evening services were arranged to be almost the same as last year. Joint services will be held in the United and Presbyterian churches during July and the Anglican and Baptist churches in August.

A summer vacation Bible school will again be held in Knox church with Rev. R. Armstrong in charge. Children of all the Protestant churches will be welcome to attend classes during the first week in July. Details of teachers and program will be arranged after Easter.

The ministers met Wednesday after they had completed their regular weekly duties of religious instruction at the public school.

Church Choir Is Guest of W. A. Group at Supper

The Women's Association of the Acton United Church were hosts to the members of the choir and their friends at a much enjoyed supper given at the Sunday school room. The occasion was the birthday party of Rev. C. L. Price, who was the guest of honor. He was presented with an attractively decorated cake which he appreciated.

Mrs. Dorothy Simmons, the choir president, and Miss O. M. Lampson, the choir leader, each thanked the ladies for the interest they had shown in the work of the choir.

Inside This Issue

The continuing progress of Acton has many exciting stories. This week the Free Press tells a story about one of the town's younger industries and the unique place it holds in Canada in the production of a novel material which will soon be found in homes across the country. See Page Three of this issue.