The Acton Free Press.

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The Veteran Residents' Club

Response to the Free Press request for information about Acton's long-time residents — those who have lived here in the same house for 50 years or more - has been encouraging. Replies sent in the first week will provide interesting reading to many in the town and district who themselves are natives or long-time residents.

Following publication of last week's Free Press, we were advised of four residents who have lived in the same house for over 50 years. Later in the week other information was received until, by Wednesday evening, 11 were confirmed in the veteran residents' category.

This number is not final. Other information has to be checked and this will undoubtedly bring the next week's total higher still.

In the meantime, the Free Press urges readers who may have more information about long-time residents to call or write the office. Next week new names will be published as the information is confirmed.

Members of the Free Press' 'Veteran Residents' Club' to date are:

Miss Elizabeth Stone. Miss Stone, now in her 90th year, settled in Acton in 1875 as a young girl. Her father rennovated the John street house where she now lives and where she has been a continuous resident for nearly 80 years. (This is the record to date.)

Mrs. Lorne Mullin. In the house originally owned by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Sprowl, south of here on highway 25, Mrs. Mullin has been a resident for over two generations.

Dr. W. G. C. Kenney. The Church street house built by his father and Jim Sharpe of Limehouse has been Dr. Kenney's home for 61 years.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Reed. Mr. and Mrs. Reed have lived for 51 years in their Main street home.

Mrs. F. Anderson. Fifty-six years ago, Mrs. Anderson moved into her present Brock street home as a child. The house at the time was not new but extensive alterations were made by her father.

John Wood. At his Wilbur street home, Mr. Wood has lived for 51 years. He lived in the same house before his marriage.

Miss Daisy Folster. Miss Folster has been a resident of her Brock street home for over 50 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Cooper. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper moved into their Main street home shortly after their marriage in November, 1904.

Mrs. Alex Cripps. Mrs. Cripps is believed to have been a resident of her Church street home for over 50 years.

About 300 Hear 'Queensmen' at Concert In Knox Under Ladies' Aid Sponsorship

The auditorium of Knox Presbyterian church contained about 300 music lovers on Tuesday evening when the Queensmen of Toronto, a choir under the leadership of Roderick A. Sheppard, presented a concert. The event was sponsored by a group of the Ladies' Aid of the church.

Rev. R. H. Armstrong welcomed the large gathering and introduced the visiting artists. Following the singing of the Doxology, Mr. Sheppard, as master of ceremonies, presented his program in four different groups of well chosen numbers. Mrs. Milton Dagg was the very efficient accompanist.

The first group included It's A Grand Night for Singing; a spiritual, Ride the Chariot, with soloist Jack Sim; Thanks Be to Thee and Skip to My Lou.

James Crockett, baritone soloist, delighted the audience with his numbers, Prologue from Pagliacci and All Day on the Prairie.

Program is Enjoyed

The second group included The Drum, Beautiful Saviour, featuring soloist M. Stevenson; Dry Bones, by Waring. The encore was The Blue Tail Fly, when the audience joined in the chorus.

Following a brief intermission, the group with N. Cumming as soloist, sang The Denorans, Down in the Valley and The Sleigh.

James Crockett again contributed selections, When I'm Looking at You, Sailormen, Song of the Flea, and as a fitting conclusion The End of a Perfect Day.

For the last group, the beautiful setting of Onward Christian Soldiers by Waring; The Whiffenpoof Song, featuring James Crockett as soloist, Old Ark's Conversion and The Battle Hymn of the Republic by Waring, were well received. As an encore the choir sang The Flowing Bowl, an old English number and a little prematurely, Now is the Month of May.

To conclude a most enjoyable evening with a wealth of good music their closing numbers were The Blessing of St. Francis and The Queen.

The visitors along with members of the local choir, were entertained by the group of the Ladies' Aid sponsoring the evening and a friendly social period of social fellowship was enjoyed at the close of the program.

W. Mainprize 97 Still Shovels Snow

Acton's oldest citizen, William Mainprize, celebrated his 97th birthday yesterday (Wednesday). Friends and neighbours dropped in at his Mill St. home to bring congratulations during the afternoon and evening.

In good health, Mr. Mainprize raked the leaves from his lawn last fall and was shovelling snow like his neighbors this week.

OBITUARY

Came To Canada From Spain in 1920

In St. Joseph's church, Acton, Requiem Mass was sung by Rev. V. J. Morgan for Mrs. Avelina Alvarez, wife of Carlos Rocher, Bower Ave., Acton, who passed away suddenly at her home on March 10. Interment was in Dublin cemetery on March 13. Mrs. Rocher was in her 63rd year.

Mrs. Rocher, whose main interests were her home and her children, was born in Salamanca, Spain in 1891. In 1920 she came to Canada and was married in Montreal in 1926. She has lived in the Acton district for 22 years.

She is survived by her husband, two sons, Charlie Louis, Raymond John and one daughter, Avelina, all of Acton.

Pallbearers were Eddie Garcia, Joe Garcia, Pat Molto, Guelph, Jack Diaz, A. Ortiz, Toronto and Harold Robson, Georgetown.

OBITUARY

Father of Two Tots D. Robertson Dies

Douglas Milne Robertson, 27, the father of two young children, died Thursday, March 25, in Guelph General Hospital from a heart condition. He had been in hospital since Monday.

Mr. Robertson was born in Guelph and lived in Eden Mills until his marriage in 1947 to the former Alice Gertrude McEllisterum. At that time he moved to Guelph and was employed at the Callander Foundry at the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, Bonny Joan, five, and Heather Anne, two; his father, George Robertson of Milton; three sisters, Mrs. W. Quinn (Georgina) Fort William, Mrs. J. W. McKnight (Joan) Acton, and Mrs. Gordon Aitken (Jean) Guelph, and a brother, Gordon, also of Guelph.

Funeral service was held in Guelph on Saturday, March 27, with interment in Woodlawn Cemetery.

OBITUARY

Gilbert Sinclair Interred Friday

Rev. E. A. Currey conducted the funeral service on March 26 for Gilbert Alexander Sinclair of Acton, who died suddenly in St. Joseph's hospital, Guelph, on March 23. Mr. Sinclair, an employee of the Wool Combing Corporation, Acton, was born in Erin township in 1897. He had lived in Acton since 1941.

Pallbearers were four brothers-in-law, Ray McEnery, Jim Crymble, Bill Delaney, and Ross Huxley, and two friends, Harvey Hurren and Ken Hurren. Interment was in Greenwood cemetery, Georgetown.

Brothers and sisters survive Mr. Sinclair. These are J. Fred Sinclair, Gear Sinclair, Stanley Sinclair, Donald Sinclair and Norman Sinclair, Bessie (Mrs. Dan McKechnie), Kate (Mrs. Ray McEnery), Elsie (Mrs. Jim Crymble), Florence (Mrs. Ross Huxley) and Margaret (Mrs. Bill Delaney).

Join Brotherhood Following Banquet

The second annual Dads and Lads Nite, sponsored by the Men's Club of St. Alban's church, was held in the parish hall, on Thursday, March 23. About 100 sat down to a delicious turkey dinner served by the ladies of St. Alban's Guild.

After the dinner the men and boys adjourned upstairs for the program. A sing-song was led by Vic Bristow and all joined in heartily. George Hall was at the piano.

The rector, Rev. Ralph Price, then introduced the speaker, Robert Welch of St. Catharines, the president of the Lincoln and Welland chapter of the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen. It was appropriate that Mr. Welch should speak to the gathering, for the Men's Club of St. Alban's is a chapter of the Brotherhood, a dominion-wide organization of Anglican churchmen.

Mr. Welch spoke of faith as a way of life and as a foundation to life. He reminded the boys that the time to lay firm foundation in the Faith as members of the church was while they were young, and he reminded the fathers that they played a great part in laying a firm foundation by example and practice. He urged all churchmen to come forward and witness for the church in their daily life, and commended the brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen as a means to this end.

New Members Admitted

After this inspiring address, William Denny thanked the speaker and reminded the men present that there was a corporate Communion the following Sunday, followed by breakfast in the Parish Hall. There was no better way to begin a task for Christ and His Church than to gather round the Lord's Table in fellowship with one another and with Christ.

The rector then admitted about 20 new members to the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen, St. Alban's Chapter. There were more desiring to become members than was anticipated and William Hull, an executive member of the Brotherhood who had come from St. Catharines with Mr. Welch, had to supply membership pins and cards.

The People's Warden then sounded out the feeling of the men on the presenting of a minstrel show in the near future and a date was set for a meeting of those interested.

The evening closed with the singing of the Queen.

St. Alban's Men's Club executive is: Clinton Taylor, president; George Paul, vice - president; George Hargrave, secretary-treasurer.

Aims of the Brotherhood of Anglican Chruchmen, in the Diocese of Niagara, are: 1. To attend public worship regularly and to participate actively in the life and work of the church. 2. to receive Communion on the Great Festivals and regularly throughout the year; 3. to give sacrificially for the maintenance and extension of the church; 4. to demonstrate by a living witness loyalty to the faith.

Citizens' Band Has Concert in Theatre

Instrumental solos and trios interspersed with band selections afforded pleasing variety when Acton Citizens' Band presented a concert Sunday evening in the Roxy theatre. About 100 attended.

M. Storey acted as master of ceremonies, announcing the numbers to be played by the uniformed band, seated on the Roxy stage. Bandmaster A. Perrott conducted.

Marches, overtures and waltzes were popular features of the hour and a half long concert. Accordion solos were played by Joseph Seelen and Les Daby. Garret Rose and Reno Braida played cornets.

It is expected that another concert will be held in about a month.

Staff Photo

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY was celebrated Tuesday by Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Johnston, Rockwood, at an open house in their honor at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Gray.

Close One of Oldest Acton Industries

Second Trip Home from Orient for Acton Private

Back home in Acton from the east for the second time is Pte. Michael McCristall of the Royal Canadian Regiment. The first time Pte. McCristall was shipped back to Canada it had been discovered he was too young to be in combat. He reached Japan, but not Korea.

This time, the rifleman reached the front lines of the fighting during a 14 month stay in the war-torn country of Korea.

He is home on 64 days leave, and on May 4 will report back to London—likely to be stationed somewhere in Canada.

Pte. McCristall was in Korea from January 15, 1953, to February 10, 1954. After the cease-fire agreement in July of last year, his company continued regular training behind where the front lines had been.

Asked where he had been in Korea, Pte. McCristall named the city of Seoul—and the numbers of hills. He described Seoul as a "shattered city" where he spent days on leave.

Attractive Souvenirs

His souvenirs include attractive Japanese jewellery and brilliantly colored pyjamas, which he assures are not worn by Koreans. They are poor people whose food seems pitifully slight and unappetizing to Canadians. They eat a great deal of rice and fish. Pte. McCristall recalled that many Koreans wear European dress, while older men and women prefer the traditional gowns.

They grow rice in the valleys between the battle-scarred hills.

Army food was good, Pte. McCristall said, although naturally mostly canned.

He left the Korean port of Inchon on an American troop ship February 10 for the return trip to this continent. The navy ship docked at Seattle, and the Acton soldier travelled by bus to Vancouver and by train across the country to Ontario. He arrived home in Acton on March 6.

Pte. McCristall is the last of the Acton soldiers who was in Korea before the cease-fire edict to return home on leave. Among those to precede him home was Pte. Jimmy Gunn, who was a prisoner of war.

Since the cease fire, a well-known Acton lacrosse player, Pte. Arnie Hazel, has been stationed in Korea. Pte. Hazel of Norval lived in Acton and worked at Beardmore and Co. tannery before joining the army.

Pte. George Turkosz returned to Canada from Korea last March, and is now with the army in Germany.

Was Clerk 25 Years I. Bennett Retires

I. M. Bennett, clerk of Esquesing township for 25 years, was officially relieved of his duties following the appointment of a successor at a special meeting of the township council last week.

Mr. Bennett tendered notice of his retirement at a meeting earlier in the year. At the March 22 special meeting, K. C. Lindsay, Georgetown, was named to succeed the veteran clerk. Mr. Lindsay is not unfamiliar with the township office, having been Esquesing treasurer for some time.

Art Padbury Heads Acton Rotary Club

Art Padbury was elected president of Acton Rotary club at the regular supper meeting in the Dominion hotel Tuesday evening. Other officers elected are vice-president, Ed. Bilton; secretary, E. A. Hansen; treasurer, Walter Woodburn; directors, Vic Masters, Jim Ledger, Victor Rumley and David Dills. Immediate past president is Mr. Rumley.

The new officers will take office in July.

Welcoming signs at the town limits were discussed, and a committee appointed to investigate. Also under discussion was the Peanut Day to be held by the club in May.

Several local cases of crippled children were brought up for consideration, and the fund discussed. Easter seal returns have begun to come in, the secretary reported.

A tour of the Ford plant in Trafalgar township for Rotarians and high school boys, previously proposed, cannot be held as soon as was hoped since no evening dates are immediately available for the conducted plant tours.

AWARDED for general proficiency in London at the University Naval Training Division graduation ceremonies was Cadet A. J. Nicol, a native of Acton, now enrolled at U.W.O.

Summer Camp for Y Debated by Board

The question of a summer camp was discussed by the Acton YMCA board at its meeting in the Y on Monday evening. Two possibilities were debated, the Acton boys and girls might go to camp with the Guelph Y or Acton Y might arrange a camp of its own. The latter suggestion would be more difficult and likely more expensive.

A nominating committee was named to bring in a slate of officers at the next meeting.

A membership report was given by Walt Woodburn. Programs to come were discussed and committee meetings will consider these further.

It was decided to engage Doug Schmuli as secretary of the Acton Y for another year.

Pure Music Topic For Music Group

"Exploring Pure Music" was the topic when the Music Study Group held its March meeting at the home of Mrs. R. Arnold, the president, Monday evening. Mrs. R. Price was in charge of the program which included readings on the concerto, the symphony and the sonata. Taking part were Mrs. R. H. Marchington, Mrs. A. J. Buchanan, Mrs. C. Heller, Mrs. E. Bilton as well as Mrs. Price.

Present Plaque To Acton Naval Cadet

An Acton native, Andrew J. Nicol, was this week awarded a plaque for general proficiency at the graduation ceremonies of the University of Western Ontario Naval Training Division.

Cadet Nicol was among a group of six first-year and second-year men in the University's naval officers training scheme to receive an award for outstanding performance during training. His award was presented at the Sunday ceremonies by Dr. F. G. Hall, president of U.W.O.

The plaque, an gleaming bronze, shows a lion rampant with sword imposed below the motto "Prevost." This is surmounted by ships with sails unfurled and the initials U.N.T.D. Cadet Nicol's name is cast below the identifying line "General Proficiency."

The U.W.O. student, who was an organizer of the local Whippet Club, grew up in Acton and attended schools here. His father, John Nicol, moved to Guelph several years ago. One brother, Tom Nicol, and one sister, Mrs. Frank Jones, lives in Acton.

At the London ceremony for awarding a portable sextant and instrument was held aboard HMCS Prevost. Graduation diplomas were presented to nine of the group who will be confirmed to the rank of acting sub-lieutenants after the graduation.

Lorn H. & S. Association Is Shown Films of Trip

The March meeting of Lorn Home and School Association was held in the school recently. The meeting opened with the singing of the Queen, after which the minutes of the previous meeting were read.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Skuce were guests of the evening and after a short business discussion Mr. Skuce gave a very interesting lecture on education. He compared older schools and the new modern schools now being built. Mr. Skuce showed films on a trip through Nova Scotia which was very interesting.

At the close of the evening lunch was served by the lunch committee, Mrs. Dobbie, Mrs. Davidson and Mrs. Guthrie.

Established in 1868, Storey Glove Co. Ceases Operations; Will Sell Stock

One of Acton's oldest industries, the Storey Glove Co., established here in 1868, has been closed, president R. R. Arnold revealed today.

In explaining the decision to cease operations Mr. Arnold pointed out that the stock would be sold in the company and it would probably take two or three months to wind it up. While there is some possibility that the building might be sold as a glove factory, it is also possible it might be sold for light industry.

Reporting he had been with the firm for 40 years, Mr. Arnold explained it had been a pleasure to be associated with the firm during those years.

—Staff Photo

MAPLE SYRUP MAKING is a truly Canadian art. This week the Acton Free Press tells an illustrated story about the labor and talent involved in maple syrup making after the sap is gathered, as it's being done in this picture. Read more about the art of this Esquesing township farmer on Page Three of this issue.

Rockwood Couple Is 50 Years Wed

A native of Acton and his Kincardine-born bride of 50 years ago marked their golden wedding anniversary in Rockwood Tuesday when friends, neighbors and relatives called at the picturesque home of Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Gray to tender congratulations to the celebrants, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Johnston.

Married March 30, 1904, in Rockwood's Methodist parsonage, Mr. and Mrs. Johnston farmed near Acton until 1910 when they moved to the farm they still reside on, near Rockwood.

Their three children all live in or near Rockwood. They are Lloyd and Edgar Johnston and Mrs. D. D. Gray (Ethylene). Their son-in-law, D. D. Gray, is a former reeve of Eramosa township and warden of Wellington county.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, who have three grandchildren, received numerous bouquets, cards, telegrams and other tokens of congratulations Tuesday the popular couple was greeted by many friends and neighbors who called to express their well wishes.

Name S. G. Bennett As R.W.F. President

S. G. Bennett, head of Acton's Beardmore Co. Ltd. and owner of a 600-acre farm in Esquesing township was last week re-elected president of the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

Mr. Bennett, a former vice-president of the Fair who succeeded P. L. Widdrick in 1952, was first named to head the world's largest winter fair a year ago this month.

A vice-president of Canada Packers Ltd., he is also a director of Dominion Stores Ltd., Chartered Trust, Phoenix Assurance, Canadian Bronze and other national corporations.

Following his graduation in engineering from the University of Toronto, he studied political economy at Oxford University, England, and later taught engineering in Toronto. He joined the Beardmore firm in 1925.

Mr. Bennett's farm, located on the seventh line of Esquesing, is noted for its pure bred Shorthorn herd which has won many show prizes at fairs and exhibitions.

The Good News

Local ratepayers, some 766 of them, were made acquainted with the town's tax bills—in all their two-feet width—this week on a disturbingly personal plane, demand for payment of same.

Eating through $23.15 worth of stamps to reach their local destinations, the 766 bills will be increased to 915 after further deliveries are made.

This year one municipal office employee, using the new billing machine, worked four days to send out more bills than last year when four employees worked three weeks and some nights to move out the good news.

Upped Postal Rates Are Effective Today

Suggested joke for April Fool's Day. Send your weekly local delivery letters today with a three cent stamp on them, mail to your out-of-town friends letters with a four-cent stamp on them. Result: Your friends will have to pay one cent plus penalty on each letter in order to read your April foolery.

Seriously, readers are reminded that new postal rates become effective today. Local letters now take four cents, out-of-town letters need five cents and post cards require four cents. Other rate changes are advertised in the local post office.

License Sales Set Record for Acton

With a last minute rush for license plates and drivers' licenses as usual this year, J. K. Gardiner issued a total of 2,000 double plates. Deadline for car licenses was St. Patrick's Day, March 17, and those with the luck of the Irish and trucks had a week of grace until March 24 to settle up for the year.

Mr. Gardiner sold 2,750 licenses, the most since he has issued for Acton and district only. Several years ago Mr. Gardiner issued licenses for Georgetown as well as Acton and recalls lineups down the street and his working all day without meals.

Chances are if you meet a car with JL or R in the license plates on a holiday this summer you'll see in Acton at the wheel. These are the two combinations left unsold on Friday this year.

Licenses are issued in Acton to people from all over the province, Mr. Gardiner says. He sees the same travellers each year when they drive in to buy their licenses.

Just before the deadline, car owners come from Toronto and Guelph to buy their licenses where the lineups are shorter. They explain they would have to wait three days or so in their home towns and would rather spend some of the time driving.

Mrs. M. Steele Hostess To W.I.

The Dublin Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. M. Steele for their March meeting with the president, Mrs. Thompson, in the chair. The meeting opened with the singing of the Ode and repeating the Mary Stewart Collect.

Sixteen members attended. The roll call was answered by "How we used our spare time in winter."

Mrs. Britton gave a paper on mothers and school lunches and a reading was given by Mrs. John D. Black.

Helpful hints were told by Mrs. Van Fleet. Donations were voted to a family who had been flooded out and also to a family who had their home burnt recently.

A trio from Dublin school sang